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SUPREME COURT, U.S.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER, 1986 TERM

JAMES CALHOUN *

Petitioner *

v. *

STATE OF MARYLAND *

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE

SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND

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and

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## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. WHETHER MR. CALHOUN RECEIVED EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL AT HIS CAPITAL SENTENCING HEARING WHEN TRIAL COUNSEL DID VIRTUALLY NO INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF MR. CALHOUN'S FAMILY AND BACKGROUND, AND FAILED TO ADVISE HIM THAT HE HAD THE RIGHT UNDER MARYLAND LAW TO ALLOCUTE BEFORE THE SENTENCING JURY?.

2. WHETHER A SENTENCE OF DEATH MAY BE CONSTITUTIONALLY IMPOSED, WHERE, UNDER A CAPITAL SENTENCING SCHEME WHERE AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PURPORTEDLY "WEIGHED", THE JURY IS INSTRUCTED THAT SHALL IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF DEATH IF THEY FIND THAT THE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT OUTWEIGH THE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES, THUS PUTTING THE BURDEN ON THE DEFENDANT TO ESTABLISH THAT DEATH IS NOT THE APPROPRIATE SENTENCE?

## OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Maryland Court of Appeals denying petitioner's post-conviction petition is reported as State v. Calhoun, 511 A.2d 461 (Md. 1986).

## JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

Petitioner filed a petition for post conviction relief under Maryland Art. 27 Section 645A (Uniform Post Conviction Act). The judgment of the Maryland Court of Appeals as to Petitioner's post conviction application was entered on July 15, 1986. Rehearing was denied on August 21, 1986.

The Court's jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1257(3), Petitioner having asserted below and asserting herein deprivation of his rights secured by the United States Constitution.

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

1. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution which provides in part:

> No person shall be . . . deprived of life liberty or property, without due process of law . . .

2. The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution which provides in part:

> . . . in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury . . . and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

3. The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution which provides in part:

> . . . Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

4. The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which provides in part:

> . . . nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

5. Md. Ann. Code Art. 27 Sec 413. (See appendix).

## I. STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

On May 22, 1981, James Calhoun was charged by indictment with two counts of murder, use of a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence, attempted murder, robbery with a dangerous and deadly weapon, and storehouse breaking with intent to commit a felony. On November 3, 1981, he was found guilty after a jury trial and one week later he was sentenced to suffer death for the murder and life plus eighty years imprisonment on the other counts. On appeal, this Court affirmed the convictions and sentences. State v. Calhoun, 297 Md. 563 (1983), 468 A.2d 45 (1983), cert. denied, 80 L.Ed.2d 846, 104 S. Ct. 2374 (1984).

On July 16, 1985, Mr. Calhoun filed a petition for post-conviction relief. The matter was assigned to Judge James McAuliffe, and on August 29, 1984, Mr. Calhoun filed a motion to recuse Judge McAuliffe. That motion was denied on October 22, 1984. A four-day evidentiary hearing was conducted beginning November 26, 1984. Thereafter, Judge McAuliffe denied relief as to the convictions, but ordered that a new capital sentencing be conducted finding error in the sentencing instructions and in not allowing Mr. Calhoun the right to allocute.

On appeal the Maryland Court of Appeals reversed the finding of the Post-Conviction Court and reinstated the sentence of death.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS [1]

On March 26, 1981 the W. Bell Store in the White Oak area of Montgomery County was being burglarized. Douglas Cummins, an assistant manager for Bell, David Meyers, an employee of the security office servicing the store, and Officer Carl Metz, were dispatched to the store. There, they encountered two black males, one taller than the other, both armed and wearing gloves and stockings over their faces. Tr. 35-36, 10/27/81.

Officer Metz was pulled into an adjoining office by the taller of the two men. David Meyers apparently drew his gun and in the ensuing gunfire exchange with the smaller of the two men, Meyers and Cummins were shot. Meyers later died. The taller man opened the door to the office where he had taken Officer Metz, and dragged Cummins into the office. Officer Metz had also been shot and later died. Cummins, who had been shot in the upper shoulder area, complied with the taller man's order to open the safe. After he opened the safe he was handcuffed to a file cabinet drawer, and the two men left. Cummins was able to free himself from the file drawer and waited for help. 6-35, 10/27/81 At this time, James Adcock, a plumber working at a nearby building, saw two persons running across Bell's parking lot.

About one week later, during which he had been treated for the gunshot wound, Cummins was shown a array of photographs at his parents home. He tentatively identified Mr. Calhoun but indicated that he would be better able to tell if he had a "full view" of the person. One week later Cummins underwent a hypnotic session in order to recall the events. At trial Mr. Calhoun was one of only two black men in the courtroom, the other being a

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1/ The circumstances of the crime are summarized in the opinion on direct appeal, Calhoun v. State, 297 Md. 563, 468 A.2d 45 (1983), and are set forth in the Post Conviction Court's order. Mr.Calhoun will set forth those facts relevant to the issues presented herein.

hundred pounds heavier. Cummins, despite earlier uncertainty, identified Mr. Calhoun as the taller of the two assailants. Tr. 59, 10/27/81.

Throughout the trial and the sentencing Mr. Calhoun was represented by his appointed counsel. Although both were experienced trial attorneys, neither had represented a capital defendant under the recent Maryland death penalty statute. At the capital sentencing hearing no witness testified on Mr. Calhoun's behalf. Counsel apparently had intended to call as a witness Mr. Calhoun's aunt who had become ill during the trial. A pretrial interview was read to the jury in lieu of her testimony. However, counsel had not interviewed and, therefore, did not call other witnesses, including family members, who could have testified. Counsel failed to conduct any investigation into Mr. Calhoun's background and made no attempt to contact persons who knew Mr. Calhoun and could provide important information about him. In addition, counsel failed to advise Mr. Calhoun that he had the unfettered right to allocute before the jury at the capital sentencing hearing. As a result, Mr. Calhoun never spoke to the jury that sentenced him.

B. How Federal Questions Were Decided

The question concerning the instructions of the trial court were presented in Mr. Calhoun's petition for post conviction relief. The merits of the issue were expressly ruled upon by the Court of Appeals in its decision on appeal. 511 A.2d 465. Similarly, the question of the effectiveness of Mr. Calhoun's trial counsel was raised in his petition for post conviction relief and was ruled upon by the Court of Appeals in its decision. Id.

## REASONS WHY THE WRIT SHOULD BE ISSUED

### I. THIS COURT SHOULD ISSUE THE WRIT TO DETERMINE WHETHER MR. CALHOUN RECEIVED EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL AT HIS CAPITAL SENTENCING HEARING.

Mr. Calhoun was denied the effective assistance of counsel as a result of numerous errors and omissions of his attorneys. These shortcoming, taken singly or collectively, resulted in prejudice that require that relief be granted.

A. Right to Effective Assistance of Counsel

In Strickland v. Washington, 104 S. Ct. 2052 (1984), the Supreme Court enunciated standards by which to measure a claimed denial of effective assistance of counsel. The test set forth by the Court requires a two-pronged showing of (1) deficient performance by counsel and (2) prejudice to the defendant. Id. at 2064. The Court held that counsel's performance is deficient if it falls "below an objective standard of reasonableness . . . considering all the circumstances." Id. at 2065.

B. Duty to Investigate

Counsel who represent criminal defendants have "a duty to make reasonable investigations" . . . Strickland v. Washington, ____ U.S. ____, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2066 (1984). While the reasonableness of the extent of an investigation depends upon the unique circumstances of the case, the duty to investigate and prepare for the sentencing phase of any trial is one of the most important duties a criminal defense attorney must perform. 2/

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2/ See, Stanley v. Zant, 697 F.2d 955, 963 (11th Cir. 1983) ("The special importance of the capital sentencing proceeding gives rise to a duty on the part of defense counsel to be prepared for the crucial phase of the trial."); Goodwin v. Balkcom, 684 F.2d 794 (11th Cir. 1982) ("at the heart of effective representation is the independent duty to investigate and prepare"); House v. Balkcom, 725 F.2d 608, 618 (11th Cir. 1984) ("Pretrial investigation, principally because it provides a basis upon which most of the defense case must rest, is, perhaps, the most critical stage of a lawyer's preparation."); Pickens v. Lockhart, 714 F.2d 1455, 1467 (8th Cir. 1983) ("it is only after a full investigation of all the mitigating circumstances that counsel can make an informed, tactical decision about which evidence would be helpful to his client's case." (emphasis in original).

There are a number of reasons for this. First, a fundamental requirement of the Eighth Amendment is that the sentencer in a capital case must focus upon the "character and record of the individual offender and the circumstances of the particular offense." Woodson v. North Carolina, 428 U.S. 280, 304 (1976). 3/

Second, the Court has repeatedly recognized that "accurate sentencing information is an indispensable prerequisite to a reasoned determination of whether a defendant shall live or die [made] by a jury of people who may never have made a sentencing decision." Gregg v. Georgia 428 U.S. 153, 170 (1976).

Third, because of the adversarial nature of the sentencing hearing in a capital case in Maryland, the responsibility for presenting evidence about the background and character of the defendant falls squarely upon trial counsel. Unlike a sentencing in a non-capital case, the jury in a capital case often has no means, outside of the parties, to secure accurate sentencing information.

Finally, in Maryland if a capital defendant does not present evidence in mitigation the likelihood that a death sentence will be imposed. Unlike other states, the Maryland death penalty statute requires the sentencing jury to weigh proven aggravating

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3/ See, Lockett v. Ohio, 438 U.S. 586, 605 (1978) ("an individualized decision is essential in capital cases"); Godfrey v. Georgia, 446 U.S. 422, 427-28 (1980); Enmund v. Florida, 458 U.S. 782, 102 S. Ct. 3368, 3377 (1982) ("The focus must be on his culpability . . . for we insist on 'individualized consideration as a constitutional requirement in imposing the death sentence . . . which means that we focus on relevant facets of the character and record of the individual offender,'"); Zant v. Stephens, 462 U.S. 862, 103 S. Ct. 2733, 2744 (1983)("What is important at the selection stage is an individualized determination on the basis of the character of the individual and the circumstances of his crime."); Ramos v. California, 462 U.S. ____, 103 S. Ct. 3446, 3456 (1983) (". . . the jury's choice must be individualized."); Caldwell v. Mississippi, ____ U.S. ____, 105 S. Ct. 2633, 2640 (1985) (state may not mislead jurors by asking them not to seriously consider "compassionate or mitigating factors stemming from the diverse frailties of humankind.")

circumstances against mitigating . Md. Code Ann. Art. 27, Section 413. In fact, if the jury finds no mitigating circumstances to exist, a sentence of death must be imposed. Thus, the more evidence in mitigation is presented, the less likelihood of a death sentence. Conversely, if no mitigation is presented, there is greater likelihood, if not a certainty, of a death sentence.

C. Other Professional Responsibilities of Counsel

Courts have recognized that in order to render a reasonably effective assistance an attorney must present "an intelligent and knowledgeable defense" on behalf of his client. Caraway v. Beto, 421 F.2d 636, 637 (5th Cir. 1970). Thus, an attorney is charged with the responsibility of knowing applicable principles of law presenting legal argument. See e.g., Taylor v. Starnes, 650 F.2d 38 (4th Cir. 1981; Nero v. Blackburn, 597 F.2d 991 (5th Cir. 1979); Beach v. Blackburn, 631 F.2d 1168 (5th Cir. 1980); Herring v. Estelle, 491 F.2d 125, 219 (5th Cir. 1974); Rummell v. Estelle, 590 F.2d at 104; Lovett v. Florida, 627 F.2d 705, 709 (5th Cir. 1980). Consequently, courts will find ineffective assistance of counsel because of failure to (a) make proper objections against, (b) move to strike, and (c) seek curative instructions regarding inadmissible, highly prejudicial testimony; Vela v. Estelle, 708 F.2d 954, 961-66 (5th Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 104 S. Ct. 736 (1984); United States v. Bosch, 584 F.2d 1113 (1st Cir. 1978); Pinnell v. Cauthron, 540 F.2d 938 (8th Cir. 1976); the failure to object to improper questions; Goodwin v. Balkcom, 684 F.2d 794, 817 (11th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 103 S.Ct. 1798 (1983); the failure to object to improper jury argument; Vela, supra, at 963; and the failure to request a charge on the focal point of the entire defense or object to instructions. Id. at 816; Ricalday v. Procunier, 736 F.2d 203, 207 (5th Cir. 1984); cf. Davis v. State, 285 Md. 19, 400 A.2d 406 (1979); .

D. Ineffectiveness at Sentencing

Because of the failure of counsel to investigate and present evidence in mitigation, object to improper evidence, object to improper instructions, object to improper argument, and to fully inform him of his rights at sentencing, Mr. Calhoun was denied effective assistance of counsel at his sentencing hearing.

1. Strategy of counsel

Both counsel testified that it was their collective strategy to investigate and present mitigating evidence about Mr. Calhoun's background. Tr. 11/28/84, 99-113. Counsel felt that presentation of live mitigation witnesses at the sentencing hearing was a matter of "necessity." Id. Also, counsel had decided to object to any and all improper evidence which the State would seek to offer. However, despite their strategic decision to investigate and present evidence in mitigation counsel, did little, if any, investigation into Mr. Calhoun's background. Moreover, despite counsel's best intentions to present the introduction of improper evidence, they failed to make proper objections. In addition, they admittedly failed to make proper objections to erroneous sentencing instructions.

2. Failure to investigate

Fairly stated, counsel's total effort in investigating evidence about Mr. Calhoun's background was to interview one aunt who happen to come by their office. Once Mr. Calhoun's aunt became ill during trial and was hospitalized, counsel found themselves at the penalty phase of Mr. Calhoun's capital trial with no subpoenaed witnesses ready to testify about any mitigating circumstances in Mr. Calhoun's background. The sole reason for this was their failure to investigate their client's past and to interview his family and persons who knew him. No other members of Mr. Calhoun's family had been interviewed, no personal records about Mr. Calhoun had been obtained, and no investigation into Mr. Calhoun's life had been conducted. Counsel never even spoke to

Mr. Calhoun's family members who attended the trial. 4 / Tr. 107, 11/28/84. And, although counsel was aware that Mr. Calhoun attended the University of the District of Columbia, they never attempted to learn any of the several people there who knew and could testify on behalf of Mr. Calhoun. 5 /

Any assessment of trial counsel's preparation for the sentencing hearing, the time when twelve laypersons would be forced to grapple with literally a life or death decision, leads to but one conclusion: their failure to investigate for the existence of mitigating circumstances fell woefully short of what is reasonably expected of counsel in the discharge of his responsibilities in a capital murder case. Weighed on any scale, counsel's failure to attempt to locate family and other mitigating witnesses falls far outside the "range of professionally competent assistance." Strickland v. Washington at 2066.

Had counsel undertaken a reasonable investigation, they could have given compelling evidence of Mr. Calhoun's life. Evidence of the emotional and physical abuse and deprivation that he suffered; the difficult circumstances of his family; the

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4 / Mr. Calhoun lived in the District of Columbia, twenty miles or so from counsel's law office. Mr. Calhoun's aunt traveled to counsel's office for the interview. In general, counsel estimated that less than 10% of their time was spent on the sentencing hearing. Tr. 108-109, 11/28/84.

Mr. Calhoun's mother and sister attended a substantial portion of the trial. Both testified that counsel never interviewed them. Tr. 11-12, 47-48, 11/27/84. This was confirmed by trial counsel. Mr. Townsend testified:

Q: Did you interview Mr. Calhoun's mother in this case?
A: No.
Q: Did you interview his sister?
A: I don't believe so.

5 / Counsel admitted:

Q: . . . is it fair to say that you knew he attended the University of the District of Columbia, but you took no step to find out what courses he took, or any persons who might have known him down there?
A: I think that it is probably fair to say that.

Tr. 107, 11/28/84.

desertion of his mother at a young age; the responsibility he assumed as a youngster to support his sisters and their children, and his attempts to better himself and help those less fortunate, would have provided the jury to decide that a sentence of death was not appropriate. This evidence can be briefly summarized as follows:

Family members. At least two members of Mr. Calhoun's family members would have brought important evidence in mitigation to the jury.

Phyllis Calhoun, his sister, described in compelling detail the emotional and physical abuse suffered by Mr. Calhoun and his sister at the hands of his parents. Their father, who was an alcoholic, brutally and unendingly, beat their mother and children, including James Calhoun. One time he broke her jaw. The beatings would occur three to four times a week. He beat James Calhoun with bottles, bricks and a lamp. She described how "there wasn't much [James] could do but take the whopping." Tr. 42, 11/27/84. The father's brutality culminated in a sexual assault on one of his daughters, while other family members were in the apartment. While the three children were ages 9-11, the mother, tired of constant beatings by her husband, deserted their family. The father was forced to "care" for the three children; however, he did little for them. He came home about "once a week" leaving the children alone the rest of the time. James and his sister were forced to fend for themselves. Sometimes James, who was the only boy in the family, "would go out and get something for us to eat [by stealing] or the lady across the hall or the lady downstairs" would give them what food was available. The circumstances apparently became so intolerable that the children were separated and lived with other extended family.

Phyllis Calhoun went to New York when she was about 13, and did not see James regularly for several years. When she saw him again he was using drugs. Later, she found out that he was trying

to enroll in a drug treatment program.

Edna Calhoun, James' mother, would have confirmed many of these tragic details. She described how James' father "mistreated him, brutality to him, brutality to my other daughter, also me. He wasn't a good father. He let us go hungry." Tr. 6-7. He beat the children with extension cords; and broke Jame's sister's jaw because she looked like the mother. When asked about the constant beatings she stated:

A: I believed that's what started it.

Q: Starting his getting in trouble?

A: Brutality.

Q: Because he was brutalized, he would do it to others?

A: Yes.

Tr. 30, 11/27/84. Even when they were not separated, the father did not provide any financial support. She described how they survived on "surplus food. [The] neighbors sometimes might give me . . . chicken or whatever they can have to spare theirself." Tr. 8. Faced with three children and an abusive, non-supporting husband Mr. Calhoun "left. I couldn't take any more" and went to Maryland. Tr. 9. She left her children hoping her sister might care for them. Although she did not have much contact with James after she left, seeing him sparingly.

Non-Family Members.

Testimony could have been presented which would have established that at one point in his life James Calhoun attempted to educated himself and helped others less fortunate. Dr. Michael Hirrel, a professor at the University of District of Columbia, testified that in 1981, shortly before the crime, he instructed James Calhoun at the University who was attending school as part of an outreach prison program. He was so impressed with Mr. Calhoun, who was a recreational major, he took tennis lessons from him. Although he was aware that Mr. Calhoun had been

incarcerated, he described him as "a good student. He was anxious to find out what was so, and he impressed me especially because he had a real appreciation for integrity" and never cheated. Tr. 64, 11, 29/84.

During his studies James Calhoun participated in programs assisting other youngsters. Arnett Smith, a program specialist for the Mental Retardation Developmental Disability Administration for the District of Columbia, described how James Calhoun participated in programs as a therapeutic recreation specialist. He was charged with supervising emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded youngsters who had been referred to a psycho-educational facility for services. Mr. Calhoun devised a therapeutic plan for a group and was responsible for implementing the programs. After he satisfactorily completed his requirements, Mr. Calhoun returned to the center on a volunteer basis to help with the Special Olympics games sponsored by the center. He was considered an asset to the program. Tr. 59-66, 11/27/84.

In short, the jury would have been presented with a fundamentally different view of James Calhoun than that which was presented. Rather than appearing as a "cold" large black man, the jury would have seen a person who had a pathetic and brutal upbringing; who struggled at a young age to support his sisters and their children; who turned to drugs to escape the reality of his life; who made attempts to educate and better himself; and who had offered a bond of compassion to those less fortunate. As the death statute in Maryland places the duty to uncover and present any evidence in mitigation squarely on the shoulders of defense counsel, counsel's failure to discharge their duties precluded a reasoned sentencing decision.

3. Failure to advise Mr. Calhoun of the right to allocute

Under Maryland state common law a capital defendant has the right to allocute to the sentencing jury and have the jury consider his statement as a reasons for not imposing the death penalty. Harris v. State, 306 Md. 344, 349, 509 A.2d 120, 122 (1986). 6/

The Post Conviction Court found as a fact that Mr. Calhoun "was not presented by counsel with a decision as to whether he would allocute." E. 55. Counsel testified that they never advised Mr. Calhoun that he had the right to allocute. E. 225. 7/ As the record reflects, the trial court never advised him of that right. These errors led to the circumstance described by the Post Conviction Court:

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6/ Prior to 1979 the right to allocute was guaranteed by rule. After 1984, allocution was also guaranteed by rule. Between 1979 and 1984, when Mr. Calhoun's trial occurred, since there was no rule governing the right to allocute. However, the Maryland Court of Appeals concluded that since there was no rule abrogating it capital defendants were guaranteed the right to allocute by Maryland common law right. See Harris v. State, 509 A.2d at 125-6.

7/ On appeal the Maryland Court of Appeals attempted to suggest that because the trial attorneys had considered and rejected the idea of Mr. Calhoun testifying and being subjected to cross-examination at trial, they also would have rejected the idea of having him allocute. 511 A.2d at 483. However, such an implication ignores the testimony of the trial attorneys who indicated that they did not even consider allocution as an alternative and could not now speculate as to what they would have done. Regardless, however, of the position of the trial attorneys, the fact remains that under Maryland law the right to allocute is a personal one exercised by the defendant, and one which Mr. Calhoun, by virtue of the failure of the trial court and his attorneys to advise him of it, was not offered. In the post conviction proceedings Mr. Calhoun stated that if he were offered the opportunity he would have allocuted. The Post Conviction Court found as fact that he was denied the opportunity to allocute and had he been advised of his right he would have testified. These findings were left undisturbed by the Maryland Court of Appeals.

> As a consequence, the jury faced with a life versus death decision retired to consider the defendant's fate having before it the commission of savage crimes (savagery is found here in the execution style premeditated killing of a uninformed police officer by a masked thief fully armed) a prior criminal record of violence, certain evidence questionably admitted tending to show defendant's violent propensities as a prisoner in custody, a minimal amount of evidence in mitigation and without ever hearing the defendant speak. After looking for days upon a black man of large statute and build who according to his counsel (as well as to the observation of this court) appears outwardly 'scary,' 'menacing,' 'cold,' and with 'a lack of emotion' (Tr. 11/26/84, pp. 103, 104), the all-white jury retired having little more before it on the other side of a difficult equation it was asked to balance beyond the spectre presented by the defendant's appearance.

E. 45. (Emphasis in original.) Had Mr. Calhoun been advised of his opportunity, he would have described to the jury the circumstances of his life which led to criminal activity; his resignation that he would remain in prison for his natural life; and his remorse. E. 56-7. 8/

4. Totality of prejudice suffered.

A defendant is entitled to relief if as a result of his counsel's errors "there is a reasonable probability that but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the outcome would have been different. A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome." Strickland v. Washington, 104 S. Ct. at 2068. As recognized by one court over two decades ago, the application of such a standard in a capital case is particularly elusive.

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8/ On appeal from the post conviction proceedings that Maryland Court of Appeals rejected the allegation that counsel was ineffective for failing to advise Mr. Calhoun about his right to allocute. The Court erroneously reasoned that since the right to allocute under the post-Furman death penalty statute was not settled until its decision in Harris counsel could not be expected to know that they were responsible to advise Mr. Calhoun of his right to allocute. However, as the Court of Appeals recognized in Harris, the right to allocute in a capital case has been guaranteed by Maryland common law for over 200 years. Although it may be argued that counsel was not expected to anticipate the decision in Harris, they certainly were responsible for knowing the rights guaranteed to a capital defendant under the common law and applicable to Mr. Calhoun.

> [T]he jury may conceivably rest the death penalty upon any piece . . . data or any one factor in [the] . . . welter of matter [raised in the penalty phase]. The precise point which prompts the penalty in the mind of any one juror is not known to us and may not even be known to him. Yet this dark ignorance must be compounded twelve times and deepened even further by the recognition that any particular factor may influence any two jurors in precisely the opposite manner.
>
> * * *
>
> Thus any such substantial error in the penalty trial may have affected the result; it is 'reasonably probable' that in the absence of such error 'a result more favorable to the appealing party would have been reached.'

People v. Hines, 61 Cal.2d 164, 390 P.2d 398, 407 (Cal. 1964).

In this case, counsel's errors individually and collectively, produced a sentencing hearing which was dramatically different from that which should have occurred. Had counsel performed effectively the jury would have heard and seen live mitigating witnesses who could have described his brutal upbringing, the tragic circumstances of his family life, his attempts to care for his sister, and other less fortunate persons, his attempts to rid himself of drugs, his attempts to educate himself and a variety of human factors which would have both personalized him to the jury and provided a number of mercy-evoking reasons to impose a life sentence. Moreover, The jury would have heard Mr. Calhoun's allocution in which he described the circumstances that led him to a life of crime, and his remorse that two lives had been taken.

Any one of these circumstances, alone or in combination, would have dramatically affected the outcome of the sentencing. Had counsel been effective there was more than a "reasonable probability" that a life sentence would have been imposed -- the probability was indeed substantial. Accordingly, this Court should issue the writ to review the decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

II THE WRIT SHOULD BE ISSUED FOR THIS COURT TO REVIEW WHETHER A SENTENCE OF DEATH MAY BE CONSTITUTIONALLY IMPOSED, WHERE, UNDER A CAPITAL SENTENCING SCHEME WHERE AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PURPORTEDLY "WEIGHED", THE JURY IS INSTRUCTED THAT IT SHALL IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF DEATH IF THEY FIND THAT THE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT OUTWEIGH THE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES, THUS PUTTING THE BURDEN ON THE DEFENDANT TO ESTABLISH THAT DEATH IS NOT THE APPROPRIATE SENTENCE.

In its charge at the sentencing hearing, the trial court instructed the jury regarding the burden of persuasion in determining the appropriate sentence, life or death, based upon a weighing of aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Initially the trial court instructed:

> Unlike some of the instructions that I gave you during the course of the trial, the instructions that I give you with respect to the sentencing statute, the instructions that I give you are binding upon you. You must follow those instructions whether you agree or disagree with them. They are the law as I give it to you, and for which you must follow.
>
> You again remain the sole judges of the facts with respect to the aggravating and mitigating circumstances under the statute which I will give to you shortly, Article 27, Section 413. Your determination is either a sentence of death or life imprisonment. The death sentence may not be imposed unless you unanimously agree that the aggravating factors outweigh the mitigating factors. . . .

E. 1227-8. Thereafter, the trial court gave instructions which conflicted with its previous charge regarding the jury's final weighing process:

> If you find that there are no aggravating circumstances, you do not go on to the mitigating circumstances; you go directly to Section 4 and enter life imprisonment. If you find that there are aggravating circumstances, go to Section 2; if you find there are not mitigating circumstances, you do not go to the third section, you go directly to No. 4 and enter the sentence of death. If you find that there are mitigating circumstances, then you would go to Section 3 and determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether or not those mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances.

> If you find by preponderance of the evidence that the mitigating factors--again, not numerically but--obviously I'm saying you could have all the aggravating factors and find that one mitigating factor could outweigh all of them. Or you could have one aggravating factor and numerous mitigating factors; but if you found that all of the mitigating factors together did not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factors, then that would be your determination. If you find that the mitigating factors outweigh the aggravating factors, then you got to the fourth section and enter life imprisonment. If you find that the mitigating factors do not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factors, then you mark that accordingly and proceed to Section 4 and enter a sentence of death.

E. 1232-3. (Emphasis added.) Thus, while the trial court initially informed the jury that the burden was on the prosecution to establish that aggravating circumstances outweighed mitigating circumstances before a sentence of death could be impose, it later instructed the jury to the contrary - that the burden was on the defendant to establish that mitigating circumstances outweighed by a preponderance of evidence aggravating circumstances.

1. The Burden of Persuasion Under Maryland Law.

Under the Maryland death penalty statute, the sentencer, judge or jury, must first consider whether the prosecution has established beyond a reasonable doubt one of 10 aggravating circumstances. Md. Ann. Code, Art. 27, Sec. 413(d). If no aggravating circumstance is established the sentence must be life. Sec. 413(f). If an aggravating factor is found to exist, the sentencer then must determine whether the defendant has proven, by a preponderance of the evidence that mitigating circumstances exist. Sec. 413(g). If non are found to exist, the sentence must be death. If mitigating circumstances are found to exist, the sentencer must then weigh the aggravating circumstances against the mitigating. Sec. 413(h). Until recently, who had the burden on persuasion on the last weighing question was open to question.

The statute would appear to be quite clear as to who had the burden on the final weighing question:

> (h) Weighing mitigating and aggravating factors - (1) If the court or jury finds that one or more of these mitigating circumstances exist, it shall determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances.
> (2) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death.
> (3) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be life imprisonment.

Despite the rather clear language of the statute the Maryland Court of Appeals has held that:

> Because the State is attempting to establish that the imposition of the death penalty is an appropriate sentence, the statute places the risk of nonpersuasion on the prosecution with respect to whether the aggravating factors outweigh mitigating factors.

Tichnell v. State, 287 Md. 695, 730, 415 A.2d 830. See also, Trimble v. State, 300 Md. 387, 415 n.16, 478 A.2d 1143 (1984), cert. denied, 105 S. Ct. 1231 (1985). Most recently, in Foster v. State, 304 Md. 439, 499 A.2d 1236 (1984), reconsideration denied with opinion, (Slip opinion No. 43 &91, February 3, 1986), the Maryland Court of Appeals reaffirmed its interpretation of Section 413(h) of Article 27, concerning the prosecution's burden of persuasion with respect to the final weighing process undertaken by the jury in deciding whether death is an appropriate sentence. Thus, the Court in Foster, rejecting the argument that Section 413(h) improperly placed the burden of persuasion on the capital defendant, made clear that it was adhering "to our previous holdings that the burden of persuasion for the purposes of Sec. 413(h) is upon the prosecution." 304 Md. at 479.

2. Instructions in This Case

The instructions in this case were inconsistent, but ultimately, and incorrectly, placed the burden of persuasion on the question of punishment on Mr. Calhoun. E. 35-36.

In two specific remarks the trial court expressly charged the jury with respect to the final weighing process that if they found that "mitigating factors did not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh aggravating circumstances," the sentence would be death. E. 1232-3. Since under Section 413, Art. 27, and under the instructions in this case, it was incumbent upon Mr. Calhoun to prove mitigating circumstance, it is clear that the trial court's instructions erroneously placed the ultimate burden of persuasion was placed on the defense.

As recently observed by the Court in Francis v. Franklin, 471 U.S. ____, ____ (1985), the fact that "conflicting" instructions are given, does not cure the prejudice created by erroneous instructions:

> [n]othing...in the charge as a whole makes clear to the jury that one of these contradictory instructions carries more weight than the other. Language that merely contradicts and does not explain a constitutionally infirm instruction will not suffice to absolve the infirmity. A reviewing court has no way of knowing which of the two reconcilable instructions the jurors applied in reaching their verdict.

Accord, Cabana v. Bullock, 54 U.S. L.W. 4105, 4107 n.2. (January 22, 1986). Thus, the fact that the trial court in a general remark contradicted its more specific charge on the ultimate

decision, does not cure the later erroneous instructions. 9/

The Court has recognized the important role that sentencing instructions play in the administration of capital punishment:

> The idea that a jury be given guidance in its decision making is hardly a novel proposition. Juries are invariably given careful instructions on the law and how to apply it before they are authorized to decide the merits of a law suit. It would be virtually unthinkable to follow any other course in a legal system that has traditionally operated by following the precedents and fixed rules of law. [Footnote omitted.] When erroneous instructions are given, retrial is often required. It is quite simply the hallmark of our legal system that juries be carefully and adequately guided in their deliberations.

Gregg v. Georgia, 428 U.S. 153, 193 (1976). Allowing juries to make important decisions without adequate instructions is, as the Court said in Gregg, "unthinkable" because "[j]urors are not experts in legal principles; to function effectively, and justly, they must be accurately instructed in the law." Carter v. Kentucky, 450 U.S. 288, 302 (1981). As stated by one court:

> [a] jury of one's peers is supposed to safeguard our institution of a fair trial by ensuring impartiality. But of what value is an open mind, if it does not know with clear delineation, the issues upon which it is to pass judgment?

Williams v. United States, 131 F.2d 21, 23 (D.C. Cir. 1942). Thus, it has been held that a jury's decision on an issue "should not rest on ambiguous and equivocal instructions to the jury on a basic issue." Ballenbach v. United States, 326 U.S. 607, 613 (1946). See also, United States v. Hill, 417 F.2d 279 (5th Cir.

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9/ Moreover, contrary to the suggestion by the Maryland Court that the erroneous instruction is "merely a reflection of the language of Section 413(h)," the instruction given by the trial court did more than recite the statutory language. As pointed out by this Court in Foster, the "statutory language [of Sec. 413(h)] does not specify which side has the burden of proof or of persuasion." 304 Md. at 477. Rather, Sec. 413(h) specifies only that "preponderance of the evidence" is the appropriate standard. However, in this case, the trial judge clearly instructed the jury that the "preponderance of evidence" standard was to be used in deciding whether mitigating circumstances outweighed aggravating circumstances. Thus, whereas the statute does not impose the "preponderance of evidence" burden on one side or the other, the trial court expressly imposed that burden on Mr. Calhoun to prove that mitigating circumstances outweighed aggravating circumstances.

1969) ("primary purpose of jury instructions is to . . . clearly instruct the jury as to principles of law which they are to apply in deciding factual issues involved in the case"); Mann v. United States, 279 F.2d 404, 410 (5th Cir. 1963)("[i]nstructions to the jury must be consistent and not misleading").

Whether a state may constitutionally place the burden on the defendant to establish that death is not an appropriate sentence in the final "weighing" process is a question not yet resolved by this court. To date this Court has approved several statutory schemes as constitutional. However, in each of these statutes the burden is in some way or another placed on the prosecution to establish death is the appropriate sentence. See e.g., Gregg v. Georgia, 446 U.S. 422 (1980)(death penalty statute requires prosecution to prove aggravating circumstance beyond a reasonable and left to the jury to determine sentence); Barclay v. Florida, 104 S.Ct. 3418 (1983))(Powell and Stevens, JJ., concurring) (prosecution required to prove aggravating circumstances beyond a reasonable doubt; aggravating and mitigating are weighed; jury makes recommendation and judge determines whether death is appropriate); Jurek v. Texas, 4[illegible] 262 (1976)(prosecution required to prove the answer to [illegible]he three questions beyond a reasonable doubt).

Moreover, whether the instructions in this case, given in conformance with a plain reading of the Maryland death penalty statute passes constitutional muster, has been the subject of some dispute. See e.g., Huffington v. State, 54 U.S.L.W. 3864 (June 24, 1984)(Marshall, J., respecting denial of certiorari); Evans v. State, 304 Md. 487, 499 A.2d 1261 (1986)(McAuliffe, J., dissenting) (cases cited therein).

An erroneous instruction which goes to the heart of the jury's ultimate decision on the life or death question undermines any assurance that the sentence will be imposed in a "consistent and rational" manner, and, thereby, comport with the requirements

of the Eighth Amendment. Here, the erroneous instruction, which placed the burden of persuasion on Mr. Calhoun, rather than the prosecution, impermissibly and unconstitutionally "skewed" any decision by the jury toward death. Because the jury found the existence of mitigating circumstances, E. 1226, the erroneous instructions in this case cannot be deemed to be harmless. This Court should issue the writ to review the decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals on this issue.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, petitioner asks that the writ be issued and the decision of the Marylan Court of Appeals be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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**§ 413. Sentencing procedure upon finding of guilty of first degree murder.**

(a) *Separate sentencing proceeding required.* — If a person is found guilty of murder in the first degree, and if the State had given the notice required under § 412 (b), a separate sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable after the trial has been completed to determine whether he shall be sentenced to death or imprisonment for life.

(b) *Before whom proceeding conducted.* — This proceeding shall be conducted:

(1) Before the jury that determined the defendant's guilt; or

(2) Before a jury impaneled for the purpose of the proceeding if:

(i) The defendant was convicted upon a plea of guilty;

(ii) The defendant was convicted after a trial before the court sitting without a jury;

(iii) The jury that determined the defendant's guilt has been discharged by the court for good cause; or

(iv) Review of the original sentence of death by a court of competent jurisdiction has resulted in a remand for resentencing; or

(3) Before the court alone, if a jury sentencing proceeding is waived by the defendant.

(c) *Evidence; argument; instructions.* — (1) The following type of evidence is admissible in this proceeding:

(i) Evidence relating to any mitigating circumstance listed in subsection (g) of this section;

(ii) Evidence relating to any aggravating circumstance listed in subsection (d) of this section of which the State had notified the defendant pursuant to § 412 (b) of this article;

(iii) Evidence of any prior criminal convictions, pleas of guilty or nolo contendere, or the absence of such prior convictions or pleas, to the same extent admissible in other sentencing procedures;

(iv) Any presentence investigation report. However, any recommendation as to sentence contained in the report is not admissible; and

(v) Any other evidence that the court deems of probative value and relevant to sentence, provided the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any statements.

(2) The State and the defendant or his counsel may present argument for or against the sentence of death.

(3) After presentation of the evidence in a proceeding before a jury, in addition to any other appropriate instructions permitted by law, the court shall instruct the jury as to the findings it must make in order to determine whether the sentence shall be death or imprisonment for life and the burden of proof applicable to these findings in accordance with subsection (f) or subsection (h) of this section.

(d) *Consideration of aggravating circumstances.* — In determining the sentence, the court or jury, as the case may be, shall first consider whether, beyond a reasonable doubt, any of the following aggravating circumstances exist:

(1) The victim was a law enforcement officer who was murdered while in the performance of his duties.

(2) The defendant committed the murder at a time when he was confined in any correctional institution.

(3) The defendant committed the murder in furtherance of an escape or an attempt to escape from or evade the lawful custody, arrest, or detention of or by an officer or guard of a correctional institution or by a law enforcement officer.

(4) The victim was taken or attempted to be taken in the course of a kidnapping or abduction or an attempt to kidnap or abduct.

(5) The victim was a child abducted in violation of § 2 of this article.

(6) The defendant committed the murder pursuant to an agreement or contract for remuneration or the promise of remuneration to commit the murder.

(7) The defendant engaged or employed another person to commit the murder and the murder was committed pursuant to an agreement or contract for remuneration or the promise of remuneration.

(8) At the time of the murder, the defendant was under sentence of death or imprisonment for life.

(9) The defendant committed more than one offense of murder in the first degree arising out of the same incident.

(10) The defendant committed the murder while committing or attempting to commit a robbery, arson, or rape or sexual offense in the first degree.

(e) *Definitions.* — As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

(1) The terms *"defendant"* and *"person"*, except as those terms appear in subsection (d) (7) of this section, include only a principal in the first degree.

(2) The term *"correctional institution"* includes any institution for the detention or confinement of persons charged with or convicted of a crime, including Patuxent Institution, any institution for the detention or confinement of juveniles charged with or adjudicated as being delinquent, and any hospital in which the person was confined pursuant to an order of a court exercising criminal jurisdiction.

(3) The term *"law enforcement officer"* has the meaning given in § 727 of Article 27. However, as used in subsection (d), the term also includes (i) an officer serving in a probationary status, (ii) a parole and probation officer, and (iii) a law enforcement officer of a jurisdiction outside of Maryland.

(f) *Finding that no aggravating circumstances exist.* — If the court or jury does not find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that one or more of these aggravating circumstances exist, it shall state that conclusion in writing, and the sentence shall be imprisonment for life.

(g) *Consideration of mitigating circumstances.* — If the court or jury finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that one or more of these aggravating circumstances exist, it shall then consider whether, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, any of the following mitigating circumstances exist:

(1) The defendant has not previously (i) been found guilty of a crime of violence; (ii) entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a charge of a crime of violence; or (iii) had a judgment of probation or stay of entry of judgment entered on a charge of a crime of violence. As used in this paragraph, "crime of violence" means abduction, arson, escape, kidnapping, manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter, mayhem, murder, robbery, or rape or sexual offense in the first or second degree, or an attempt to commit any of these offenses, or the use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or another crime of violence.

(2) The victim was a participant in the defendant's conduct or consented to the act which caused the victim's death.

(3) The defendant acted under substantial duress, domination or provocation of another person, but not so substantial as to constitute a complete defense to the prosecution.

(4) The murder was committed while the capacity of the defendant to appreciate the criminality of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of law was substantially impaired as a result of mental incapacity, mental disorder or emotional disturbance.

(5) The youthful age of the defendant at the time of the crime.

(6) The act of the defendant was not the sole proximate cause of the victim's death.

(7) It is unlikely that the defendant will engage in further criminal activity that would constitute a continuing threat to society.

(8) Any other facts which the jury or the court specifically sets forth in writing that it finds as mitigating circumstances in the case.

(h) *Weighing mitigating and aggravating circumstances.* — (1) If the court or jury finds that one or more of these mitigating circumstances exist, it shall determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances.

(2) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death.

(3) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be imprisonment for life.

(i) *Determination to be written and unanimous.* — The determination of the court or jury shall be in writing, and, if a jury, shall be unanimous and shall be signed by the foreman.

(j) *Statements required in determination.* — The determination of the court or jury shall state, specifically:

(1) Which, if any, aggravating circumstances it finds to exist;

(2) Which, if any, mitigating circumstances it finds to exist;

(3) Whether any mitigating circumstances found under subsection (g) outweigh the aggravating circumstances found under subsection (d);

(4) Whether the aggravating circumstances found under subsection (d) are not outweighed by mitigating circumstances under subsection (g); and

(5) The sentence, determined in accordance with subsection (f) or (h).

(k) *Imposition of sentence.* — (1) The court shall impose the sentence determined by the jury under subsection (f) or (h).

(2) If the jury, within a reasonable time, is not able to agree as to sentence, the court shall dismiss the jury and impose a sentence of imprisonment for life.

(3) If the sentencing proceeding is conducted before a court without a jury, the court shall impose the sentence determined under subsection (f) or (h).

(l) *Rules of procedure.* — The Court of Appeals may adopt rules of procedure to govern the conduct of a sentencing proceeding conducted pursuant to this section, including any forms to be used by the court or jury in making its written findings and determinations of sentence. (1978, ch. 3, §§ 1, 2; 1979, ch. 521.)

(m) *Alternate jurors.* — (1) A judge shall appoint at least 2 alternate jurors when impaneling a jury for any proceeding:

(i) In which the defendant is being tried for a crime for which the death penalty may be imposed; or

(ii) Which is held under the provisions of this section.

(2) The alternate jurors shall be retained during the length of the proceedings under such restrictions and regulations as the judge may impose.

(3) (i) If any juror dies, becomes incapacitated, or disqualified, or is discharged for any other reason before the jury begins its deliberations on sentencing, an alternate juror becomes a juror in the order in which selected, and serves in all respects as those selected on the regular trial panel.

(6) An alternate juror may not replace a juror who is discharge during the actual deliberations of the jury on the guilt or innocence of the defendant, or on the issue of sentencing.
(1983, chs. 8, 296, 497; 1984, chs. 255, 682.)

STATE of Maryland

v.

James Arthur CALHOUN.

No. 191, Sept. Term, 1985.

Court of Appeals of Maryland.

July 15, 1986.

Petition was filed for postconviction relief. The Circuit Court, Montgomery County, James S. McAuliffe, J., affirmed convictions and ordered new sentencing proceeding. The State and petitioner both appealed. The Court of Appeals, Smith, J., held that: (1) petitioner waived issue that he was improperly denied right to inspect grand jury testimony; (2) petitioner waived issue that he was denied due process when he was not allowed to excuse himself from courtroom during testimony of eyewitness; (3) petitioner failed to establish that blacks were underrepresented in jury pools in county; (4) death qualification during voir dire did not result in unconstitutionally prosecution-prone jury; (5) prosecutor's closing argument at guilt/innocent phase of trial was proper; (6) petitioner was not denied effective assistance of trial or appellate counsel; and (7) recusal of postconviction judge was not required.

Order granting new capital sentencing proceeding reversed, in all other respects affirmed, and case remanded.

1. Criminal Law ⇐1208.1(6)

Death sentence may not be imposed unless jury unanimously agrees that aggravating factors outweigh mitigating factors. Code 1957, Art. 27, § 413(h)(2).

2. Criminal Law ⇐998(3)

Petitioner, who made no request in trial court for allocution, waived in postconviction proceeding issue that he was denied right to allocute at sentencing. Code 1957, Art. 27, § 645A(c).

3. Criminal Law ⇐998(3)

Petitioner's failure to demand available grand jury transcript and to preserve objection to trial court's failure to require its production constituted waiver in postconviction proceeding of issue that he was improperly denied right to inspect grand jury testimony for cross-examination purposes.

4. Criminal Law ⇐998(3)

Failure to raise on direct appeal issue that petitioner was denied due process when he was not allowed to excuse himself from courtroom during testimony of eyewitness resulted in claim being waived in postconviction proceeding. U.S.C.A. Const. Amends. 5, 14.

5. Jury ⇐120

Data petitioner presented failed to make out prima facie case of underrepresentation of blacks in jury pools in Montgomery County.

6. Jury ⇐33(2.1)

Death qualification during voir dire did not result in unconstitutionally prosecution-prone jury.

7. Criminal Law ⇐998(3)

Requests of petitioner's attorney for individually sequestered voir dire were waived in postconviction proceeding where requests and actions by trial court were not subjects of appeal.

8. Jury ⇐131(13)

Trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying request of defense attorney for individually sequestered voir dire.

9. Criminal Law ⇐998(3)

Petitioner waived in postconviction proceeding issue that prosecutor's closing argument at guilt/innocent phase of trial was improper where petitioner failed to object at trial and failed to raise issue on appeal.

10. Criminal Law ⇐723(2)

Argument of prosecutor in closing argument at guilt/innocent phase of trial to the effect that what jury should recall is that the lives of two men were snuffed out

in a horrible crime that should affect the conscience of every decent human being did not exceed bounds of fair comment.

11. Criminal Law ⇐720(5)

Prosecutor's statements in closing argument at guilt/innocent phase of trial regarding unpeachment of state witness who testified in accordance with extremely advantageous plea agreement was within realm of fair comment.

12. Criminal Law ⇐726

Statements of prosecutor in closing argument during guilt/innocent phase of trial as to prosecution's intention of future prosecution of state witness was reply to defense counsel's statemept regarding witness' plea bargain and was fair comment.

13. Criminal Law ⇐726

Prosecutor's comments on rebuttal as to fundamental principles of law governing trial did not invade province of court in instructing jury but was merely a reply to a point raised by petitioner.

14. Criminal Law ⇐713

Statements of prosecutor during closing argument in guilt/innocent phase of trial as to premeditated murder did not contradict statements by trial court and were proper.

15. Criminal Law ⇐998(13)

Determination by Court of Appeals that petitioner failed to make effective objection to introduction of certain evidence was binding on postconviction court.

16. Homicide ⇐354

Evidence that petitioner at another time had sprayed contents of bottle, apparently containing mixture of human waste, at correctional officer was admissible in sentencing phase of murder trial.

17. Criminal Law ⇐641.13(6)

Petitioner was not denied effective assistance of counsel on the basis that trial counsel failed to interview family members and university students who knew petitioner where petitioner's mother and sister attended trial and could have been called as witnesses had petitioner wished them to be called and value at sentencing of testimony of university students was negligible. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 6.

18. Criminal Law ⇐641.13(6)

Trial counsel was not ineffective for making objection to introduction of certain evidence; counsel could not have known that a different decision would be made in a future case. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 6.

19. Criminal Law ⇐641.13(7)

Trial counsel was not ineffective for failing to inform petitioner of right of allocution at sentencing; petitioner did not have right of allocution at that time. Code 1957, Art. 27, § 413; U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. 6.

20. Criminal Law ⇐641.13(7)

Petitioner was not denied effective appellate counsel; rather, number of claims raised by trial and appellate counsel on behalf of client was indicative of fact that they were fighting at every turn to protect petitioner to the best of their professional ability. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 6.

21. Criminal Law ⇐796

Trial court was not required at sentencing to instruct jury about its option to impose life sentence notwithstanding finding that aggravating circumstances outweighed mitigating circumstances. Code 1957, Art. 27, §§ 413, 413(h).

22. Criminal Law ⇐1208.1(6)

Preponderance of evidence is proper test for determining whether death is appropriate sentence.

23. Criminal Law ⇐796

Trial judge's jury instructions that it was burden of petitioner to establish existence of one or more mitigating circumstances by a preponderance of the evidence were clear and adequately described to jury the function of mitigating circumstances in sentencing deliberations and what a mitigating circumstance is.

24. Criminal Law ⇐1137(3)

Petitioner could not complain of jury instruction which came about because of effort of defense counsel to protect petitioner.

25. Criminal Law ⇐723(1)

Statement made by prosecutor in closing argument at sentencing that question of not being paroled was only a possibility on which jury could not speculate was proper response to defense introduction of issue of possible mandatory life sentence.

26. Criminal Law ⇐723(1)

Prosecutor's argument during closing argument at sentencing as to certainty of death did not exceed bounds of fair comment.

27. Criminal Law ⇐713

Statement of prosecutor during closing argument at sentencing comparing circumstances of death of victim to that of execution sanctioned by law and that scheme of guided discretion consisted of jury's being required to identify certain aggravating factors and balance them against any mitigating factors that might exist in determining whether to impose death sentence and then make ultimate determination did not exceed bounds of fair comment.

28. Judges ⇐51(4)

Petitioner's request for recusal of postconviction judge did not have to be heard by a judge other than one sought to be recused.

29. Judges ⇐45

Fact of postconviction judge's familial ties to county police department did not require him to recuse himself.

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Richard B. Rosenblatt, Asst. Atty. Gen. (Stephen H. Sachs, Atty. Gen., on brief), Baltimore, for appellant.

Robert E. Morin (Joseph P. Suntum, Office of the Public Defender, on brief), Rockville, for appellee.

Argued before MURPHY, C.J., SMITH, ELDRIDGE, COLE, RODOWSKY and COUCH, JJ., and CHARLES E. ORTH, Jr., Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals (retired), Specially Assigned.

SMITH, Judge.

James Arthur Calhoun was convicted by a Montgomery County jury of first degree premeditated murder in the death of Philip Metz (principal in the first degree), murder in the first degree (felony murder) in the death of David Myers (principal in the second degree), attempted murder of Douglas Cummins, two violations of the handgun law, robbery with a deadly weapon, and storehouse breaking. A jury sentenced him to death for the murder of Metz. In *Calhoun v. State*, 297 Md. 563, 468 A.2d 45 (1983), *cert. denied*, 466 U.S. 993, 104 S.Ct. 2374, 80 L.Ed.2d 846 (1984), we affirmed the convictions and the death sentence.

Pursuant to the provisions of Maryland Code (1957, 1982 Repl. Vol., 1985 Cum. Supp.) Art. 27, §§ 645A-J, the Uniform Post Conviction Procedure Act, Calhoun filed a petition for post-conviction relief in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. The court affirmed Calhoun's convictions but ordered a new sentencing proceeding based upon its finding of an erroneous allocation of the burden of proof in the trial court's instruction to the jury and the failure of the court to offer Calhoun an opportunity for allocution prior to the jury's deliberating on the sentence. We granted leave to both the State and Calhoun to appeal. On the State's appeal we shall reverse. We shall affirm on Calhoun's appeal.

## I THE STATE'S APPEAL

### (A) THE JURY INSTRUCTION

[1] The trial judge opened his instructions by telling the jury, "The death sentence may not be imposed unless you unanimously agree that the aggravating factors outweigh the mitigating factors." At the conclusion of his instruction, he said in relevant part:

"If you find by preponderance of the evidence that the mitigating factors—again, not numerically but—obviously I'm saying you could have all the aggravating factors and find that one mitigating factor could outweigh all of them. Or you could have one aggravating factor and numerous mitigating factors, but if you found that all of the mitigating factors together did not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factor, then that would be your determination. If you find that the mitigating factors outweigh the aggravating factors, then you go to the fourth section and enter life imprisonment. If you find that the mitigating factors do not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factors, then you mark that accordingly and proceed to Section 4 and enter a sentence of death."

The post-conviction judge said that "the instruction by the trial judge to the jury pursuant to Art. 27, Sec. 413(h)(2) that 'if it finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death' improperly stated the burden of persuasion."

Code (1957, 1982 Repl. Vol.) Art. 27, § 413(h)(2) states relative to the sentencing authority, jury or court, "If it finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death." Subsection (h)(3) states, "If it finds that the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be imprisonment for life." It will be noted that the instruction given is virtually in the words of the statute.

In *Foster v. State*, 304 Md. 439, 479, 499 A.2d 1236, 1257 (1985), *cert. denied*, — U.S. —, 106 S.Ct. 2310, 90 L.Ed.2d — (1986), Judge Eldridge said for the Court, "[W]e adhere to our prior holdings that the burden of persuasion for purposes of § 413(h) is upon the prosecution." In *Evans v. State*, 304 Md. 487, 527 n. 18, 499 A.2d 1261, 1287 n. 18 (1985), *cert. denied*, — U.S. —, 106 S.Ct. 2310, 90 L.Ed.2d — (1986), we said, "[W]e held in *Foster*, 304 Md. at 479, 499 A.2d at 1256–1257, that the language of § 413(h) does not place any burden or risk upon the accused." In *Foster, Evans and Huffington v. State*, 305 Md. 306, 318, 503 A.2d 1326, 1332 (1986), we said, "[A]s indicated in the *Evans* opinion, *id.* at 537 n. 18, 499 A.2d 1261, the instruction was not erroneous because the 'language of § 413(h) does not place any burden or risk upon the accused.'"

The instruction here was in the language of the statute. Hence, there was no error on the part of the trial judge.

### (B) DENIAL OF THE RIGHT OF ALLOCUTION

[2] In his petition for post-conviction relief Calhoun alleged:

"Petitioner was denied his right guaranteed under Art. 27 Section 413(c)(2), then Maryland Rule 772(a); the Maryland Declaration of Rights, and the Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, to allocute at his sentence.

"Petitioner was never advised by counsel or the trial court of his unrestricted right to allocute before his sentencing jury. Such a right is fundamental to all criminal defendants, particularly those whose lives hang in the balance. Consequently, he was deprived of his right to do so. Moreover, the failure of the State to adhere to its own law and procedure denied petitioner his right to due process of law and a reliable sentencing procedure.

"Furthermore, not only is allocution mandated by rule for all non-capital defendants but the practice in Maryland has been to allow allocution by other capital defendants sentenced pursuant to the same procedural rules and statutes as the petitioner. Such discrimination in the allowance of allocution denied the petitioner equal protection of the laws and results in the arbitrary application of the death penalty."

The post-conviction judge said:

"The defendant had not testified during the first phase, nor did he *testify* in the second phase. As apparently his trial counsel viewed defendant's right to speak only in the context of 'testimony,' defendant was not presented by counsel with a decision as to whether he would allocute. The trial judge did not ask defendant if he wished to allocute before the jury. The defendant did not allocute. As a consequence, the jury faced with a life versus death decision retired to consider the defendant's fate having before it the commission of savage crimes (savagery is found here in the execution style premeditated killing of a uniformed police officer by a masked thief fully armed) a prior criminal record of violence, certain evidence questionably admitted tending to show defendant's violent propensities as a prisoner in custody, a minimal amount of evidence in mitigation *and without ever hearing the defendant speak*. After looking for days upon a black man of large stature and build who according to his counsel (as well as to the observation of this court) appears outwardly 'scary,' 'menacing,' 'cold,' and with 'a lack of emotion', the all-white jury retired having little more before it on the other side of a difficult equation it was asked to balance beyond the spectre presented by the defendant's appearance." (Reference to transcript omitted. Emphasis in original.)

The post-conviction judge concluded:

"The Maryland Rules presently in effect which require that defendants in sentencings hearings in both capital and non-capital cases be asked on the record by the trial court whether the right of allocution is desired seem to treat the right of allocution as fundamental. More importantly, the facts in this case and the significance of the right of allocution to the defendant here suggest strongly the only possible answer that can be given. This court holds that the history of the right of allocution and its significance to a defendant—never more important than it is today under the procedure in capital sentencing cases—results in this right being fundamental—so fundamental that only the defendant—not his counsel—can waive the right. It follows that this defendant who was never advised of his right to allocution can not have waived such right.

"The sentencing procedure utilized here in that it denied the defendant his fundamental right to allocute before the sentencing jury was defective. The sentencing portion of the defendant's trial can not stand."

Code (1957, 1982 Repl. Vol.) Art. 27, § 413(c)(2) provides, "The State and the defendant or his counsel may present argument for or against the sentence of death." In *Harris v. State*, 306 Md. 344, 349, 509 A.2d 120, 122 (1986) Chief Judge Murphy said for the Court, "[A]llocution is neither synonymous with nor encompassed by the term 'argument' ...." In *Harris* the Court said:

"By chapter 3 of the Acts of 1978, effective July 1, 1978, the General Assembly enacted § 413, the present capital sentencing statute. In response to this enactment, the Court adopted Md. Rule 772A, which substantially tracked the language of § 413 and applied only to capital sentencing proceedings. The rule did not contain any provision as to allocution. The Court also amended Md. Rule 772 to apply only to noncapital cases.[5]

"Between January 1, 1979, and July 1, 1984, the Maryland Rules did not afford defendants in capital cases a right of allocution. It was during this period that Harris was sentenced to death. The right of allocution in capital cases was not again addressed in the Maryland Rules until the adoption of current Rule 4-343 as part of the comprehensive revision of the rules in 1984.[6] Rule 4-343, which superceded Md. Rule 772A, provides in subsection (d), entitled 'Allocution,' that in capital cases, '[b]efore sentence is determined, the court shall afford the defendant the opportunity, per-

sonally and through counsel, to make a statement."

[4] Md. Rule 772A was adopted and Md. Rule 772 was amended effective January 1, 1979.

[5] Rule 4-343 became effective on July 1, 1984." 306 Md. at 353, 509 A.2d at 124.

Calhoun was sentenced during this hiatus in the rules. However, in *Harris* the Court said:

"[W]hen Md. Rule 772 was amended to apply only in noncapital cases, thereby removing capital cases from the purview of its allocution provision, the right of allocution in capital cases reverted to the common law of Maryland." 306 Md. at 353, 509 A.2d at 124.

The Court concluded in *Harris*:

"We conclude that, under the common law applicable to capital sentencing proceedings at the time Harris was sentenced, a defendant who timely asserts his right to allocute, and provides an acceptable proffer, must be afforded a fair opportunity to exercise this right. If the right so asserted is denied by the court, as here, the sentence must be vacated and a new sentencing proceeding conducted." 306 Md. at 359, 509 A.2d at 127.

It is conceded that Calhoun made no request for allocution in the trial court. The post-conviction statute (Code 1957, 1982 Repl. Vol.) Art. 27, § 645A(c) provides:

"(c) *When allegation of error deemed to have been waived.*—For the purposes of this subtitle, an allegation of error shall be deemed to be waived when a petitioner could have made, but intelligently and knowingly failed to make, such allegation before trial, at trial, on direct appeal (whether or not said petitioner actually took such an appeal), in any habeas corpus or coram nobis proceeding actually instituted by said petitioner, in a prior petition under this subtitle, or in any other proceeding actually instituted by said petitioner, unless the failure to make such allegation shall be excused because of special circumstances. The burden of proving the existence of such special circumstances shall be upon the petitioner."

In *Curtis v. State*, 284 Md. 132, 395 A.2d 464 (1978), Judge Eldridge discussed this statute for the Court. The Court concluded:

"[W]e believe that the Legislature, when it spoke of 'waiver' in subsection (c) of Art. 27, § 645A, was using the term in a narrow sense. It intended that subsection (c), with its 'intelligent and knowing' standard, be applicable only in those circumstances where the waiver concept of *Johnson v. Zerbst* [, 304 U.S. 458, 58 S. Ct. 1019, 82 L.Ed. 1461 (1938),] and *Fay v. Noia* [, 372 U.S. 391, 83 S.Ct. 822, 9 L. Ed.2d 837 (1963),] was applicable. Other situations are beyond the scope of subsection (c), to be governed by case law or any pertinent statutes or rules. Tactical decisions, when made by an authorized competent attorney, as well as legitimate procedural requirements, will normally bind a criminal defendant." 284 Md. at 149-50, 395 A.2d at 474.

In *Harris* Chief Judge Murphy said for the Court:

"[B]ecause the right of allocution is not a fundamental right secured by either the federal or state constitution, it is waived if not asserted by the defendant before sentencing. *See Logan v. State*, 289 Md. 460, 427, 425 A.2d 632 (1981); *Robinson v. Warden*, 242 Md. 171, 172-73, 218 A.2d 217 (1966); *see also Hill v. United States*, 368 U.S. 424, 428, 82 S. Ct. 468 [471], 7 L.Ed.2d 417 (1962). This principle of waiver is equally applicable to the common law right of allocution, and supercedes the 'actual or potential injury' standard of *Dutton* [*v. State*, 122 Md. 373, 91 A. 417 (1914)]." 306 Md. at 357, 509 A.2d at 126.[1]

*Harris*.

1. We hasten to point out that the post-conviction judge did not have the benefit of our opinion in

We deem the point waived. Hence, Calhoun is not entitled to post-conviction relief on this issue.

## II CALHOUN'S APPEAL

### (A) NEELEY'S GRAND JURY TESTIMONY

[3] This case was tried before our decision in *Jones v. State*, 297 Md. 7, 464 A.2d 977 (1983), where we held that "after a State's witness has testified on direct examination, a defendant is entitled to inspect the grand jury testimony for cross-examination purposes without any requirement that he show any *other need*." (In the motion for reconsideration we said:

"Because this case does not involve any change in the Maryland law, a defendant's failure to demand an available grand jury transcript, and to preserve an objection to the trial court's failure to require its production, clearly implicates the waiver provisions of *Curtis v. State*, 284 Md. 132, 145–150, 395 A.2d 464 (1978)." 297 Md. at 25, n. 1, 464 A.2d at 985, n. 1.

On this issue the post-conviction judge said:

"During a hearing on October 5, 1981, on pre-trial motions, the trial court declined to require the state to disclose the identity of one grand jury witness whose testimony was likely to be offered at trial. During the argument and colloquy, defendant's counsel fully protected the record *at that point* by requesting the name and the grand jury testimony of that witness. The court's rulings are embodied in the following two separate excerpts from pp. 22 and 23 of the transcript:

> 'THE COURT: I will order the name be divulged to the Court and, which I will not look at until it becomes at issue in the trial, and by at issue I don't mean it's necessary for counsel to put it in issue by requesting it for impeachment.'
>
> 'THE COURT: I'll reserve ruling on the motion to produce at this time. I will, however, order that that transcript be prepared of the testimony—do you want the testimony of Miss Lawson also?'

"The name of the witness was Audrey Neeley and she did in fact testify at trial. She was a young lady nineteen years of age who had kept frequent company with petitioner on the days prior to as well as after the date on which the crimes charged here were committed. Her testimony related, among other matters, to the petitioner having constantly carried a pistol prior to the date of the crimes but not afterwards, to petitioner's sudden acquisition of a large sum of money and the shopping excursion that then ensued, and to petitioner's concern that the police were after him to the extent that he left his apartment and took up residence with the witness at her apartment for several days. The trial transcript fails to disclose Audrey Neeley was ever identified to petitioner's counsel as the 'mystery' grand jury witness. Indeed it is conceded by the state that she was never so identified. No transcript of this witness' grand jury testimony was furnished to petitioner's counsel. No reference was made by the state or by the court to her grand jury testimony. In the light of what had transpired at the pre-trial hearing, this failure to call attention at trial to Audrey Neeley as the heretofore unnamed person who had testified before the grand jury was error. However, error though it was, it was not reversible error.

"The first difficulty was that of the trial court in making a temporizing ruling which not only was not self executing but which to the contrary invited the very slippage through the cracks which so obviously occurred here. The second problem was caused by the state. It had an affirmative responsibility to call the attention of the court and defense counsel to Audrey Neeley in the context of

but not as a grand jury witness prior to the time she testified at trial. The third mistake was made by petitioner's trial counsel in failing to raise the issue during the trial. It may be that the court's words during the pre-trial hearing were sufficient to lull petitioner's counsel into a sense of security (although this is quite debatable), but when the state rested and no 'mystery' witness had been identified and no grand jury transcript had been forthcoming, there was no longer any basis for security, and at least by then, if not sooner, alarms should have gone off and petitioner's counsel should have been on their feet raising the matter for the court's attention. At that point, the witness could have been identified, her grand jury testimony made available to petitioner's counsel and the witness could have been recalled by the state or by the court to be made available for additional cross-examination, if desired. While a close call, this court here holds that the failure of petitioner's trial counsel to so call the matter to the court's attention resulted in a waiver of this claim." (Emphasis in original. One transcript reference deleted.)

We think the trial judge was correct here in finding waiver. Moreover, counsel was not obliged to anticipate our decision in *Jones*.

### (B) FAILURE TO EXCUSE CALHOUN FROM THE COURTROOM

(4) Calhoun argues that the trial court denied him due process when it refused to allow him to excuse himself from the courtroom during the testimony of Douglas Cummins, the only eyewitness to the crime, because it resulted in his view in an unreliable and suggestive courtroom identification.

The facts reveal that no line-up was ever held. However, on April 6 Cummins was shown a group of seven photographs. We said in *Calhoun*:

"At first he said he could not identify anyone. Later he touched the photograph of Calhoun and said that the shape of the head was very similar to that of the taller of his assailants but that he would be better able to tell if he had a full view of the person. Subsequently, he tapped Calhoun's photograph and said that of the seven, 'that's who I'd put my money on.'" 287 Md. at 575, 414 A.2d at 50.

A hypnotic interview of Cummins was conducted by the police on April 13. We pointed out in *Calhoun*, where there was an attack upon Cummins' testimony on the basis of hypnosis, that "[h]is posthypnotic testimony at the hearing on the motion to suppress was consistent with the interviews." 287 Md. at 575, 414 A.2d at 50. We said:

"It was clearly demonstrated that the Cummins and Adcock testimony did not depend upon hypnosis. Cummins identified Calhoun's photograph prior to hypnosis. Even if he had made no courtroom identification of Calhoun his extrajudicial identification would have been admissible in evidence. *Bedford v. State*, 293 Md. 172, 177, 443 A.2d 78 (1982), *JoAnson v. State*, 237 Md. 283, 291, 206 A.2d 130 (1965)." 287 Md. at 578, 468 A.2d at 51.

At trial the judge overruled Calhoun's request to absent himself from the courtroom during Cummins' testimony. The prosecution initially said there would be no in-court identification. However, Cummins identified Calhoun at the express request of the court at trial.

The post-conviction judge said:

"It is the petitioner's contention that the trial court erred in denying his 'right' to remove himself from the courtroom to avoid an in-court identification. The short answer to this contention is that the petitioner had no such 'right.' While other procedures short of petitioner leaving the courtroom were available to avoid or reduce the suggestive nature of an in-court identification, the petitioner made no such requests. In *McKnight v. State*, 30 Md.App. 280, 286-287 [364

A.2d 116] (1976) reversed on other grounds, 280 Md. 604 [375 A.2d 551] (1977) the Court of Special Appeals stated:

"Appellant next urges that the trial court abused its discretion in denying his request to be seated in the audience for the in-court identification. He contends that in order to insure due process, it is incumbent on the state to produce evidence of a reliable and untainted identification prior to trial or that the court where no such evidence is forthcoming insure the defendant a fair and impartial in-court identification free from the suggestive effect of the defendant's being seated at the trial table next to defense counsel. We know of no such duty on the part of either the state or the court, and appellant cites no authority to support his position.

"This court has held that an accused has no constitutional right to be placed in a lineup. *Bowen v. State*, 6 Md. App. 713, 149 [249] A.2d 499 (1969). It has also been held that the conduct and direction of a trial is always within the sound discretion of the presiding judge. *Cummings v. State*, 7 Md. App. 667, 256 A.2d 894 (1969). In *Alston v. State*, 11 Md. App. 624, 629, 276 A.2d 225, 228 (1971), this court considered a similar request. The court at 629-630 [276 A.2d 225] said:

> "Although such practices as seating an accused in the audience at his trial for purposes of identification are widely used and approved, the propriety, however, of various in-court identification techniques are still tied to the rule that the overall conduct of a trial is subject to the sound discretion of the trial judge. Moreover this court will not interfere with that discretion unless the trial judge clearly abuses it and, as a result the accused is prejudiced. *Turner v. State*, 7 Md.App. 74 [253 A.2d 777]."

> 'In denying appellant's motion, the trial court called attention to the fact that there were only two or three other individuals in the courtroom at the time of trial and that they were individuals closely resembling the defendant and were apparently brought there for the purpose of misleading the jury. Under questioning, defense counsel admitted having requested their presence, "to see if the complaining witness could ..testify the defendant if he was not seated at the counsel's table."
>
> 'We hold that the trial court did not abuse its discretion and acted fully within its judicial prerogative in not permitting the in-court identification to become a game of judicial Russian roulette. *See White v. State*, 23 Md.App. 151, 156, 216 [326] A.2d 219 (1974).'

"The matter of in-court identification and the procedure therein utilized was within the sound discretion of the trial court. The record here fails to reveal an abuse of discretion.

"Petitioner's request to absent himself from the trial was made by counsel on the record. It was available for review by appellate counsel who read the entire record. The failure to raise the claim on appeal results in this claim being waived."

The post-conviction judge did not err in finding waiver and no abuse of discretion.

### (C) UNDERREPRESENTATION OF BLACKS IN JURY POOLS

[5] In the post-conviction court Calhoun asserted that blacks were underrepresented in jury pools in Montgomery County.

In addressing the merits, the post-conviction judge said:

"Petitioner alleges that he has established a baseline or prima facie case that blacks were underrepresented in the jury pool. He points to the testimony of a statistical expert, Professor Richard Seltser of Howard University, as establishing to a reasonable degree of statistical

certainty that the relative or comparative disparity of blacks in the general population as compared to those in the jury pool was 41.6%. He claims he has established a systematic underrepresentation of blacks that results in a denial of equal protection of the law as well as a violation of the Sixth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. He stresses the Sixth Amendment right because he maintains that lack of an intent to achieve underrepresentation is totally irrelevant to the inquiry. He suggests that the matter is one purely of statistical inquiry devoid of any considerations of constitutional balance or of consequences (either the statisticians are satisfied or they are not). While the petitioner cites many authorities, none go so far as to support petitioner's contentions based upon the facts in evidence here.

"The only suggestion made by petitioner for changing the present system of calling jurors using the voter rolls was to supplement the voter rolls with motor vehicle registration lists. Yet, there was no definitive showing as to how utilization of the motor vehicle registration lists would impact upon representation in the jury base.

"Of far greater importance, though, is the reasoning engaged in by Professor Selkser in reaching his expressed opinion. The processing of jury questionnaires by the office of the Jury Commissioner for Montgomery County from 1979 through October 1983 disclosed that of 58,429 persons summoned for jury service, 41,850 were white; 2,063 were 'Negroid'; 615 were Oriental; 191 were Spanish American; 73 were American Indian; and 9,707 were 'other' or did not reply to the race question. Solely by arbitrarily assuming that the 9,707 in the 'other' category would divide numerically by percentage in a given way the jury response by blacks was determined to be 4.66%. Thus, it was concluded that 4.66% of the persons in the jury pool were black. Census data showed that of the 424,742 persons in Montgomery County over 18 years of age, 33,836 or 7.96% were black. No effort was made to determine how many of the 33,836 blacks living in Montgomery County, a bedroom community for the nation's capital, were foreign affiliated non-citizens and thus not eligible for jury service. The comparison of 4.66% to 7.96% was used to reach the conclusion of underrepresentation, the disparity being stated to be 41.6%. Because the 9,707 persons (16.17%) who either gave no response or who responded 'other' is such a large and hence statistically significant number when compared with the other numbers used any substantial variation from the unsupported assumption relating to the racial breakdown of the 9,707 persons collapses the conclusion reached of underrepresentation as with a house of cards. Indeed, any substantial increase in the number of blacks in such group can achieve either full proportional representation or even overrepresentation statistically. The data fails to support the opinion given, and on the merits petitioner has failed to make out a prima facie case of underrepresentation."

Claims of underrepresentation of distinctive groups in the jury selection process have been presented on equal protection grounds (14th Amendment), as in *Alexander v. Louisiana*, 405 U.S. 625, 92 S.Ct. 1221, 31 L.Ed.2d 536 (1972), and under the right to a fair cross-section of the community (guaranteed by the 6th Amendment) as in *Taylor v. Louisiana*, 419 U.S. 522, 95 S.Ct. 692, 42 L.Ed.2d 690 (1975). In *Duren v. Missouri*, 439 U.S. 357, 99 S.Ct. 664, 58 L.Ed.2d 579 (1979), Justice White said for the Court:

"In order to establish a prima facie violation of the fair-cross-section requirement, the defendant must show (1) that the group alleged to be excluded is a 'distinctive' group in the community; (2) that the representation of this group in venires from which juries are selected is not fair and reasonable in relation to the number of such persons in the commun-

ty, and (3) that the underrepresentation is due to systematic exclusion of the group in the jury-selection process." 439 U.S. at 364, 99 S. Ct. at 668, 58 L. Ed. 2d at 586-87.

In *Colvin v. State*, 299 Md. 88, 103-07, 472 A.2d 953, 960-62, *cert. denied*, — U.S. —, 105 S.Ct. 226, 83 L.Ed.2d 155 (1984), we examined Code (1973, 1980 Repl. Vol., 1985 Cum. Supp.), §§ 8-201 to -206, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article and its provision for random selection of jurors from voter registration lists in connection with an allegation that there was discrimination in the selection of Anne Arundel County juries. There was a contention there that the trial judge committed error by relying on our ruling in *Wilkins v. State*, 270 Md. 62, 310 A.2d 39 (1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 992, 94 S.Ct. 1592, 39 L.Ed.2d 889 (1974), that the selection of jurors from voter registration lists was constitutional. Judge Couch said for the Court:

> "The use of voter registration lists is designed to produce an array which is a representative cross-section of the community. This official means of selecting prospective jurors is not unconstitutional even when it may have some racially disproportionate impact. *See Castaneda v. Partida*, [430 U.S. 482, 97 S.Ct. 1272, 51 L.Ed.2d 498 (1977)], and *Swain v. Alabama*, [380 U.S. 202, 85 S.Ct. 824, 13 L.Ed.2d 759 (1965)]. In order to establish a prima facie case of discrimination the party asserting such must show that the use of those lists resulted in purposeful discrimination." 299 Md. at 106, 472 A.2d at 962. (Footnote omitted.)

We concluded:

> "Appellant has neither established an abuse in implementation of the selection system nor systematic exclusion. Without more it cannot be said that Negroes have been excluded from the venire to such a degree to establish a prima facie case of racial discrimination." 299 Md. at 107, 472 A.2d at 962.

We reiterated our holding in *Colvin* and refused again to reexamine the holding in *Wilkins* in *Ledoweit v. State*, 302 Md. 691, 700-02, 490 A.2d 1228, 1232-33 (1985), *vacated and remanded on other grounds*, — U.S. —, 106 S.Ct. 1452, 89 L.Ed.2d 711 (1986).

We conclude that the post-conviction judge did not err when he concluded that Calhoun "ha[d] failed to make out a prima facie case of underrepresentation."

## (D) DEATH QUALIFIED JURY

[6] Calhoun contends that death qualification during *voir dire* resulted in an unconstitutionally prosecution-prone jury.

In *Foster*, 304 Md. at 455, 499 A.2d at 1348, we rejected on the merits Foster's argument "that, in a capital murder prosecution, the exclusion of prospective jurors so opposed to capital punishment that their impartiality would be affected, deprives a defendant of his or her constitutional right to an impartial jury at the guilt or innocence phase of the trial." *See also Booth v. State*, 306 Md. 172, 192, 507 A.2d 1098, 1108 (1986), and *Grandison v. State*, 305 Md. 685, 727, 506 A.2d 580, 601 (1986).

The issue has just been addressed by the Supreme Court in *Lockhart v. McCree*, 476 U.S. —, 106 S.Ct. 1758, 90 L.Ed.2d 137 (1986). The Court opened the opinion by saying it addressed the question left open by its decision nearly eighteen years ago in *Witherspoon v. Illinois*, 391 U.S. 510, 88 S. Ct. 1770, 20 L.Ed.2d 776 (1968):

> "Does the Constitution prohibit the removal for cause, prior to the guilt phase of a bifurcated capital trial, of prospective jurors whose opposition to the death penalty is so strong that it would prevent or substantially impair the performance of their duties as jurors at the sentencing phase of the trial?" 476 U.S. at —, 106 S.Ct. at 1760, 90 L.Ed.2d at 142.

The Court referred to "the six studies introduced by McCree that at least purported to deal with the central issue in this case, namely, the potential effects on the determination of guilt or innocence of excluding

'Witherspoon—excludables' from the jury ..." 476 U.S. at —, 106 S.Ct. at 1765, 90 L.Ed.2d at 146. Justice Rehnquist said for the Court:

"Having identified some of the more serious problems with McCree's studies, however, we will assume for purposes of this opinion that the studies are both methodologically valid and adequate to establish that 'death qualification' in fact produces juries somewhat more 'conviction-prone' than 'non-death-qualified' juries. We hold, nonetheless, that the Constitution does not prohibit the States from 'death qualifying' juries in capital cases." 476 U.S. at —, 106 S.Ct. at 1764, 90 L.Ed.2d at 147.

The Court further stated:

"We remain convinced that an extension of the fair cross-section requirement to petit juries would be unworkable and unsound, and we decline McCree's invitation to adopt such an extension.

"But even if we were willing to extend the fair cross-section requirement to petit juries, we would still reject the Eighth Circuit's conclusion that 'death qualification' violates that requirement. The existence of a 'fair cross-section' claim is the systematic exclusion of 'a "distinctive" group in the community.' *Duren* [*v. Missouri*, 439 U.S. 357,] 364 [, 99 S.Ct. 664, 58 L.Ed.2d 579 (1979)]. In our view, groups defined solely in terms of shared attitudes that would prevent or substantially impair members of the group from performing one of their duties as jurors, such as the 'Witherspoon-excludables' at issue here, are not 'distinctive groups' for fair cross-section purposes.

"We have never attempted to precisely define the term 'distinctive group,' and we do not undertake to do so today. But we think it obvious that the concept of 'distinctiveness' must be linked to the purposes of the fair cross-section requirement. In *Taylor* [*v. Louisiana*, 419 U.S. 522, 95 S.Ct. 692, 42 L.Ed.2d 690 (1975)], we identified those purposes as (1) 'guard[ing] against the exercise of arbitrary power' and ensuring that the 'commonsense judgment of the community' will act as 'a hedge against the overzealous or mistaken prosecutor,' (2) preserving 'public confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system,' and (3) implementing our belief that 'sharing in the administration of justice is a phase of civic responsibility.' *Id.*, at 530–531 [95 S.Ct. at 696]." 476 U.S. at —, 106 S.Ct. at 1765, 90 L.Ed.2d at 148–49.

The Court further observed:

"The group of 'Witherspoon-excludables' involved in the case at bar differs significantly from the groups we have previously recognized as 'distinctive.' 'Death qualification,' unlike the wholesale exclusion of blacks, women, or Mexican-Americans from jury service, is carefully designed to serve the State's concededly legitimate interest in obtaining a single jury that can properly and impartially apply the law to the facts of the case at both the guilt and sentencing phases of a capital trial. There is very little danger, therefore, and McCree does not even argue, that 'death qualification' was instituted as a means for the State to arbitrarily skew the composition of capital-case juries.

"Furthermore, unlike blacks, women, and Mexican-Americans, 'Witherspoon-excludables' are singled out for exclusion in capital cases on the basis of an attribute that is within the individual's control. It is important to remember that not all who oppose the death penalty are subject to removal for cause in capital cases; those who firmly believe that the death penalty is unjust may nevertheless serve as jurors in capital cases so long as they state clearly that they are willing to temporarily set aside their own beliefs in deference to the rule of law. Because the group of 'Witherspoon-excludables' includes only those who cannot and will not conscientiously obey the law with respect to one of the issues in a capital case, 'death qualification' hardly can be said to create an 'appearance of

unfairness.'" 476 U.S. at ——, 106 S.Ct. at 1766, 90 L.Ed.2d at 149-50. (Footnotes omitted.)

The Court concluded:

"[T]he Constitution presupposes that a jury selected from a fair cross-section of the community is impartial, regardless of the mix of individual viewpoints actually represented on the jury, so long as the jurors can conscientiously and properly carry out their sworn duty to apply the law to the facts of the particular case. We hold that McCree's jury satisfied both aspects of this constitutional standard." 476 U.S. at ——, 106 S.Ct. at 1770, 90 L.Ed.2d at 154-55.

Accordingly, we reject this argument.

(E) ALLEGED INADEQUATE VOIR DIRE, FAILURE TO SEQUESTER THE JURY DURING VOIR DIRE, AND FAILURE TO SEQUESTER THE JURY

[7, 8] The brief of Calhoun asserts that prior to questioning his attorneys had requested individually sequestered voir dire and that later at trial counsel requested that the jury be sequestered.

On these issues the post-conviction judge said:

"The individual voir dire of each juror conducted away from the presence of the balance of the array is a permitted but not required procedure. Although such a request was made by defense counsel, the matter remained one within the sound discretion of the trial court. Likewise, the determination not to sequester the jury during trial proceedings was a decision made by the trial court in exercising its discretion. No circumstances were offered in evidence to show that the trial court erred in so exercising its discretion. No circumstances were offered to show on what occasions and in what matter the petitioner sustained prejudice as a result of the rulings of the trial court. Petitioner's claim is rejected on its merits. There was no abuse of discretion.

"Appellate counsel read the entire trial transcript. The requests made by defense counsel and the actions taken by the trial court were not the subjects of appeal. As such they were waived. This court holds that the doctrine of waiver is clearly applicable to these two different but related claims."

Calhoun points to no questions he desired on voir dire that were not asked. We agree that the issues were waived. Moreover, the examination on voir dire was in accordance with Rule 762 (now Rule 4-312) applicable to this proceeding and our interpretation of it in *Colvin*, 259 Md. at 101-03, 472 A.2d at 959-60. The issue of whether to sequester the jury was left by then Rule 543 a 8 (now Rule 2-511) to the discretion of the trial court. We find no error.

(F) PROSECUTOR'S CLOSING ARGUMENT AT THE GUILT/INNOCENCE PHASE OF THE TRIAL

[9] Calhoun refers to certain portions of the closing argument and asserts, "A criminal defendant is entitled to relief when it is demonstrated that a prosecutor's argument was so egregious as to render the trial fundamentally unfair." He takes issue with five specific portions of the argument which we shall discuss seriatim. The post-conviction judge said:

"Taken individually and as a whole, the prosecutor's statements were fair and accurate comment.

"The failure to object at trial results in waiver.

"The failure to raise the issue on appeal results in waiver."

As to closing argument Judge O'Donnell said for the Court in *Wilhelm v. State*, 272 Md. 404, 326 A.2d 707 (1974):

"As to summation, it is, as a general rule, within the range of legitimate argument for counsel to state and discuss the evidence and all reasonable and legitimate inferences which may be drawn from the facts in evidence, and such comment or argument is afforded a wide

range. Counsel is free to use the testimony most favorable to his side of the argument to the jury, and the evidence may be examined, collated, sifted and treated in his own way. Moreover, if counsel does not make any statement of fact not fairly deducible from the evidence his argument is not improper, although the inferences discussed are illogical and erroneous. Generally, counsel has the right to make any comment or argument that is warranted by the evidence proved or inferences therefrom, the prosecuting attorney is as free to comment legitimately and to speak fully, although harshly, on the accused's action and conduct if the evidence supports his comments, as is accused's counsel to comment on the nature of the evidence and the character of witnesses which the [prosecution] produces. *See* 88A C.J.S. *Criminal Law* § 1093 (1961). *See also Cicero v. State*, 220 Md. 614, 92 A.2d 547 (1952); *Meyerson v. State*, 181 Md. 105, 28 A.2d 650 (1942); 6 J. Wigmore, Evidence § 1906 (3d ed. 1940)." 272 Md. at 412-13, 326 A.2d at 714.

We have carefully examined each of the allegations of error and fully agree with the post-conviction judge that the argument did not exceed proper bounds. Moreover, as the post-conviction judge noted, there is waiver because of the failure to object at trial and the failure to raise the issue on appeal.

*I*

[10] Calhoun alleged in his petition for post-conviction relief:

"The prosecutor played to and attempted to influence the passions of the jury by asking them to render a guilty verdict because of the heinous nature of the crime. The prosecutor implored the jury:

> One final example that I think is very important and should be mentioned before I get into the actual facts is that in a courtroom, lawyers tend to speak in abstract legal concepts. Witnesses tend to speak, especially expert witnesses, in clinical terms. Over a course of time a trial takes on a very antiseptic appearance; we tend to push out the gravity of the crime because we don't want to face it. But I think we all should recall what we're dealing with here and what we're dealing with is that on March 27, 1981, the lives of two men, two young men, were snuffed out. David Meyers and Philip Metz, one of them 20, one of them 21. It was snuffed out in a horrible crime, one that should affect the conscience of every decent human being."

We do not believe this to have exceeded the bounds of fair comment.

*II*

[11] Calhoun further alleged in his petition for post-conviction relief:

"Prosecutor improperly argued that the fact that the State's primary witness, Herbert Smallwood, who testified in accordance with an extremely advantageous plea agreement, did not have a prior criminal conviction for a violent crime using a weapon, was probative of the State's contention that Smallwood did not participate in the shooting. The prosecutor stated:

> You heard the impeachment of Mr. Smallwood, heard about prior burglaries, but I ask you did you hear about one prior violent crime using a weapon? Did you hear of any violent crime, any armed robberies, any murders? And is there a shred of evidence in the case that Mr. Smallwood had a gun or in fact is it the opposite? Did Smallwood tell you that he was offered a gun by Calhoun and he refused it? And did Smallwood further tell you he was to be one of the men inside in the beginning, but he backed out, he didn't want any part of going in that store? He admitted after the initial attempt to burglarize Bell, and he did say that they were going for a burglary the first time, not a robbery, and you can infer that from the evidence because

certainly they wouldn't be breaking into the Bell to wait six hours for the manager to appear."

We believe this, too, to have been within the realm of fair comment.

*3*

[12] Calhoun further alleges:

"Prosecutor improperly testified to his intention of future prosecution of the State's witness Smallwood. The prosecutor told the jury that under no circumstances would it try Smallwood for murder, although the defense contended that Smallwood participated in the murder. The prosecutor stated:

> It is the State's opinion, and of course that doesn't matter, because it is your opinion that matters, but it is the State's opinion that what Herbie Smallwood told you on the stand is the truth. *And the State has absolutely no intention, regardless of what you do with this defendant, of charging Smallwood with murder and trying him.* Does that make any sense at all after the witnesses we have paraded in before you, after the long, arduous testimony we have had you sit through, to just have done it on some kind of a lark, some kind of a whim? Sure, we will present evidence and if it turns out you don't believe us, then we will turn it around the next time." (Emphasis Calhoun's.)

Calhoun neglected to refer to the paragraph preceding that which he quoted:

> "This defense counsel feels free to comment about what the State is going to do with Herbie Smallwood, and I feel free to comment back to you about what the State intends to do with Herbie Smallwood."

This statement of the State was in obvious reply to defense counsel who had said:

> "Now, you remember the plea bargain has some unusual parts to it. And I don't mean the plea bargain as it affects the witness Smallwood. He has not yet been sentenced on the Montgomery County case.
>
> "Inference might be drawn from that they are waiting to see whether he is cooperative and to some extent that would have an impact on his testimony, maybe he would be able to use that in mitigating his sentence. I suggest to you that's not it. Because you will also know from the plea bargain that was read to you that there is still pending against him, Smallwood, there are the same charges pending against the defendant in this case. And that Smallwood can be prosecuted if it develops that Smallwood was found to be the one inside the W. Bell.
>
> "I suggest to you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that the State may well be awaiting the outcome of this case, that when you return a verdict of not guilty as to the defendant, you have not set free the killer of Officer Metz. Herbie Smallwood can still be brought to justice and the killer of Officer Metz will not go free."

This was within the realm of fair comment.

*4*

[13] Calhoun also claimed in his post-conviction petition:

> "The prosecutor improperly invaded the court's province of instructing the jury as to fundamental principles of law governing the trial and improperly stated to the jury what the 'law' was as to a definition of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The prosecutor stated:
>
> I would like to read to you what the highest court of our State says about reasonable doubt, and to suggest to you that what Mr. Cromwell says it is is not quite what our highest court says it is. It is a very brief quote, and it is from Barry v. The State, Maryland, Page 62, the Maryland Court of Appeals. 'The trier of fact in a criminal case is enjoined by law to give due force to the perception of innocence

and then to proceed cautiously in weighing the evidence. But he's not commanded to be naive and to believe without scrutiny every grim suggestion or far-fetched fairy tale whether emanating from the State or the defense. An indispensable ingredient in judgments in court as well as out of it is common sense. To prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt it is not necessary that every conceivable miraculous coincidence consistent with innocence could be negative [sic]. They could not possibly meet their burden.' That is what they are saying reasonable doubt is; that we have to prove every possible coincidence consistent with innocence, we do not. That is not our burden."

This comment was made in response to the argument of defense counsel:

"Now, let me comment once more about reasonable doubt.

"Reasonable doubt often raises in one or two ways as a practical matter: either through the absence of proof, the absence of evidence that you can rely upon as one method or another method is that the proof is susceptible of two different interpretations, one consistent with guilt, one inconsistent with guilt. If you have that kind of proof, one consistent with guilt, one inconsistent with guilt, then you cannot return a verdict of guilty because the proof must exclude any reasonable possibility of criminal agency.

"If the proof is susceptible with two interpretations, one consistent with guilt and one inconsistent with guilt, then it doesn't meet the burden of proof. We believe the evidence in this case is of either of those two; it is not there or susceptible to two interpretations."

Prior to this statement by defense counsel, the State had only mentioned reasonable doubt in explaining the burden of proof as follows:

"The reason for that is that the State at all times in a criminal case, in every criminal case, bears the burden of proving the defendant guilty to each and every element beyond a reasonable doubt. Therefore, we have the opportunity for rebuttal, since we carry that burden. That burden of proof, beyond a reasonable doubt, is one that we gladly accept in this case; because we believe that we have demonstrated through our evidence overwhelmingly, not simply beyond a reasonable doubt, that this defendant is guilty of murder."

The court's instruction to the jury on reasonable doubt had been:

"In defining what is a reasonable doubt, it sometimes or often times becomes difficult of precise description because it is something that occurs or doesn't occur in the minds of each juror, all of you collectively. It does not require that the defendant be found guilty or that you be convinced of his guilt beyond all doubt or to a mathematical certainty. Nor is the State required to negate every conceivable circumstance of innocence.

"A reasonable doubt is a doubt founded upon reason. It's not a fanciful doubt nor a whimsical, nor a capricious doubt. It is such a doubt as would cause a reasonable person to hesitate to act in the grave or important consequences of your own everyday life. Thus, if the evidence is of such a character as to persuade you of the truth of the charges against the defendant with the same force that would be sufficient to persuade you to act upon the abiding conviction of truth in a grave or more important transaction of your own life, you may conclude that the State has met its burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt to a moral certainty, and it is your duty then to convict.

"If, however, you do not have such a conviction as to the defendant's guilt, then reasonable doubt exists and your duty would be to acquit or vote for not guilty."

The prosecutor's comments on rebuttal did not invade the province of the court in

instructing the jury. He merely replied to a point raised by the defendant.

5

[14] The final allegation by Calhoun on this issue was:

"The prosecutor also urged improperly [to] the jury a different definition of premeditation:

> Now, let's go to that point, premeditated murder. And I think the best way I can deal with it is to illustrate, to read from law. I know it puts everybody to sleep, but it is short, and I think really cogent to this point.
>
> This is a case called Robinson v. State, and it is from our Court of Special Appeals. They say, 'If the killing stems from a choice made as the result of thought, however short the struggle between the intention and the act, it is sufficient to characterise the crime as a deliberate and premeditated murder.' It goes on to say that in this case, 'The Jury could have found intent to kill from the firing of two shots separate by an interval of time.' And they said that has been held to be sufficient evidence of deliberation and premeditation. That's exactly what we had here, two shots separated by an interval of time."

Defense counsel had discussed at length the concept of premeditation and deliberation. The preamble to that with which Calhoun takes issue is the preceding paragraph where the State said:

"And Mr. Townsend went to great lengths to make sure that you were at least confused about what constituted premeditated murder and why the similar way of dealing with the murder of Officer Metz was simply to call it a second degree murder if it was anything. What possible importance could that have for dealing with a man who was nowhere near the place."

The trial court had instructed the jury:

"The word premeditation as an element of first degree murder means planned, contrived, a scheme planned ahead of time before the commission of the fatal act. It means the entertainment in the mind of a fully formed purpose to kill with design to kill must have preceded the killing by a sufficient length of time, even though short, to show that the design to kill was deliberate, opportunity for reflection.

"It is not necessary that the premeditation or deliberation take any particular or appreciable length of time to be formed. In order to sustain a conviction of first degree murder as distinguished from first degree murder because of a felony murder, you must find beyond a reasonable doubt that it was an actual malicious intent, a fully performed purpose to kill with enough time for deliberation and premeditation to convince you that this purpose was not the immediate offspring of rashness or impetuous temper, but that the mind had become fully conscious of its own design. Although design must precede the killing by some length of time, that time may not be long. The killing be not the instant effect of impulse, if there is hesitation or doubt to overcome, a choice made as a result of thought, however short, the struggle between the intention and the act, is sufficient to characterize the crime as murder in the first degree."

We do not find that what the State said contradicted that said by the court.

6

[15] In sum, we agree with the State and the post-conviction judge that the issues are waived and that even if they were not waived there was no improper comment.

## (G) THE FECAL MATTER

Calhoun opens his brief on this issue by stating:

"During the sentencing phase of the trial the State introduced evidence regarding an allegation that Mr. Calhoun

had sprayed contents of a bottle, apparently containing a mixture of human waste, on a correctional officer. Mr. Calhoun was never tried and convicted of any criminal offense arising from the alleged incident and it was stipulated below that any charges which could have been brought are now barred by the statute of limitations." (Reference to record extract omitted.)[2]

This incident and the record pertaining to it is discussed in *Calhoun*, 297 Md. at 596-601, 468 A.2d at 60-63. The objection made was, "It's no relationship to any of the specifications of aggravating circumstances under the circumstances." We pointed out that this was not a general objection and hence under *son Luack v. State*, 279 Md. 255, 264, 368 A.2d 468, 473 (1977), the right to challenge the evidence on other grounds was waived. We pointed out that this was not an objection on the grounds subsequently held in *Scott v. State*, 297 Md. 235, 465 A.2d 1126 (1983), to exclude evidence. We said:

> "In the absence of an objection focusing on the point before the Court in *Scott*, the evidence here was admissible under Art. 27, § 413(c)(1)(v), which permits introduction of, 'Any other evidence that the court deems of probative value and relevant to sentence, provided the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any statements.'" 297 Md. at 601, 468 A.2d at 62-63.

The post-conviction judge indicated that he disagreed with our assessment of the issue. However, he concluded his opinion by saying:

> "As the particular evidence admitted here was highly damaging to the petitioner (very possibly determinative of the ultimate issue) and as the particular evidence was clearly inadmissible in the sentencing hearing had a valid objection been lodged, this court would order the sentencing phase of petitioner's trial stricken but for the holding of a majority of the Court of Appeals that counsel failed to make an effective objection. The determination of the matter by the Court of Appeals is binding on this court. The matter has been finally litigated. This court so holds."

This issue has been finally litigated. Hence, under Code (1957, 1982 Repl.Vol.) Art. 27, § 645A(b) it is not subject to further review on post-conviction. However, there is yet additional reason to overrule this point. In *Huffington v. State*, 304 Md. 559, 500 A.2d 272 (1985), *cert. denied*, ——U.S. ——, 106 S.Ct. 3315, 90 L.Ed.2d —— (1986) [54 U.S.L.W. 3864 (U.S. June 24, 1986) (No. 85-6648)], we dealt with the issue of institutional history, which this incident was. We said in *Huffington*:

> "The section of the presentence investigation report pertaining to institutional history states:
>
> 'On or about 12/6/83 the defendant, John Norman Huffington was cited for 1) refusing to obey a direct order and 2) creating a security threat. The defendant received ten days in disciplinary isolation for each of those infractions.
>
> 'Evidently the defendant offered resistance to Deputy Minnick while being searched. As to the second infraction the defendant apparently interfered with the searching of other inmates in the cell block.'"

304 Md. at 577, 500 A.2d at 281.

We referred to *Bartholomey v. State*, 267 Md. 175, 297 A.2d 696 (1972), involving the Maryland death sentence cases remanded to us by the Supreme Court of the United States for reconsideration in the light of its holding in *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238, 92 S.Ct. 2726, 33 L.Ed.2d 346 (1972). We pointed out that in discussing the procedure to be followed by trial judges

2. Under the heading of "consideration of improper aggravating circumstances" Calhoun in his petition for post-conviction relief mentioned other alleged improper evidence. The post-conviction judge did not deal with any other issues in his opinion. No other issues are presented to us. Hence, we deem them abandoned.

in resentencing those defendants Chief Judge Murphy said for the Court:

"[T]o aid the sentencing judge in fairly and intelligently exercising the discretion vested in him, the procedural policy of the State encourages him to consider information concerning the convicted person's reputation, past offenses, health, habits, mental and moral propensities, social background and any other matters that a judge ought to have before him in determining the sentence that should be imposed. *Skinker v. State*, 239 Md. 234, 210 A.2d 716 (1965); *Scott v. State*, 238 Md. 265, 208 A.2d 575 (1965); *Costello v. State*, 237 Md. 464, 206 A.2d 812 (1965); *Driver v. State*, [201 Md. 25, 92 A.2d 570 (1952)]; *Baker v. State*, [3 Md.App. 251, 238 A.2d 561 (1968)]. The sentencing judge may, but need not, obtain a presentence report under Article 41, § 124(b). Of course, the sentencing judge may take into consideration the defendant's conduct after the offense was committed, viz., he may consider evidence of events occurring after the date of the original sentencing to whatever extent he may deem necessary. *North Carolina v. Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711, 89 S.Ct. 2072, 23 L.Ed.2d 656 (1969); *Williams v. New York*, 337 U.S. 241, 69 S.Ct. 1079, 93 L.Ed. 1337 (1949); *Purnell v. State*, [241 Md. 562, 217 A.2d 298 (1966)]; *Gatewood v. State*, 15 Md.App. 450, 291 A.2d 688 (1972)." 287 Md. at 193-94, 297 A.2d at 706. (Footnotes omitted.)

We referred to the more recent case of *Logan v. State*, 289 Md. 460, 425 A.2d 632 (1981), where Judge Digges said for the Court:

"In considering what is proper punishment, it is now well-settled in this State that a judge is not limited to reviewing past conduct whose occurrence has been judicially established, but may view 'reliable evidence of conduct which may be opprobrious although not criminal, as well as details and circumstances of criminal conduct for which the person has not been tried.' *Henry v. State*, 278 Md. 131, 147-48, 328 A.2d 293, 303 (1974)." 289 Md. at 481, 425 A.2d at 643.

We concluded:

"We are not concerned here with crimes, as in *Scott v. State*, 297 Md. 235, 465 A.2d 1126 (1983), with which an accused was charged but had not yet been convicted. We believe that under our prior cases this institutional history was properly admissible." 304 Md. at 578, 500 A.2d at 281.

[16] The institutional infraction here was much more serious than that before the Court in *Huffington*. *Huffington* is further grounds for its admission.

## (H) INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL

Calhoun contends that trial and appellate counsel were ineffective. As to trial counsel he makes five claims: (1) failure to investigate and present mitigating evidence; (2) failure to object to improper evidence; (3) failure to object to improper argument; (4) failure to inform Calhoun of his right of allocution; and (5) failure to object to instructions at sentencing. As to appellate counsel he claims error in failing to argue: (1) the issue of the selection of a prosecution-prone jury; (2) the failure of the trial court to excuse Calhoun from participating in suggestive in-court identification procedures; (3) the issue of failure to disclose grand jury testimony; (4) the issue of proper jury instructions; and (5) the question of improper closing argument at trial and sentencing.

### (1) THE LAW

In *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2052, 80 L.Ed.2d 674 (1984), the Supreme Court said, "The benchmark for judging any claim of ineffectiveness must be whether counsel's conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied on as having produced a just result." 466 U.S. at 686, 104 S.Ct. at 2064, 80 L.Ed.2d at 693-94. The standard for judg-

ing a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel was enunciated:

"A convicted defendant's claim that counsel's assistance was so defective as to require reversal of a conviction or death sentence has two components. First, the defendant must show that counsel's performance was deficient. This requires showing that counsel made errors so serious that counsel was not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed the defendant by the Sixth Amendment. Second, the defendant must show that the deficient performance prejudiced the defense. This requires showing that counsel's errors were so serious as to deprive the defendant of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable. Unless a defendant makes both showings, it cannot be said that the conviction or death sentence resulted from a breakdown in the adversary process that renders the result unreliable." 466 U.S. at 687, 104 S.Ct. at 2064, 80 L.Ed.2d at 693.

The defendant has a duty to show that counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness. The Court cautioned against second-guessing an attorney's actions at trial with the benefit of hindsight. The Court said:

"Judicial scrutiny of counsel's performance must be highly deferential. It is all too tempting for a defendant to second-guess counsel's assistance after conviction or adverse sentence, and it is all too easy for a court, examining counsel's defense after it has proved unsuccessful, to conclude that a particular act or omission of counsel was unreasonable. Cf. *Engle v. Isaac*, 456 U.S. 107, 133–134 [, 102 S.Ct. 1558, 1574–75, 71 L.Ed.2d 783, 804] (1982). A fair assessment of attorney performance requires that every effort be made to eliminate the distorting effects of hindsight, to reconstruct the circumstances of counsel's challenged conduct, and to evaluate the conduct from counsel's perspective at the time. Because of the difficulties inherent in making the evaluation, a court must indulge a strong presumption that counsel's conduct falls within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance; that is, the defendant must overcome the presumption that, under the circumstances, the challenged action 'might be considered sound trial strategy.' See *Michel v. Louisiana*, [350 U.S. 91,] 101 [, 76 S.Ct. 158, 164, 100 L.Ed. 83, 93 (1955)]." 466 U.S. at 689, 104 S.Ct. at 2065–66, 80 L.Ed.2d at 694–95.

* * * * * *

"Thus, a court deciding an actual ineffectiveness claim must judge the reasonableness of counsel's challenged conduct on the facts of the particular case, viewed as of the time of counsel's conduct. A convicted defendant making a claim of ineffective assistance must identify the acts or omissions of counsel that are alleged not to have been the result of reasonable professional judgment. The court must then determine whether, in light of all the circumstances, the identified acts or omissions were outside the wide range of professionally competent assistance. In making that determination, the court should keep in mind that counsel's function, as elaborated in prevailing professional norms, is to make the adversarial testing process work in the particular case. At the same time, the court should recognize that counsel is strongly presumed to have rendered adequate assistance and made all significant decisions in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment." 466 U.S. at 690, 104 S.Ct. at 2066, 80 L.Ed.2d at 695.

As the Court further said, "[A]ctual ineffectiveness claims alleging a deficiency in attorney performance are subject to a general requirement that the defendant affirmatively prove prejudice." 466 U.S. at 693, 104 S.Ct. at 2067, 80 L.Ed.2d at 697. Moreover, the defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. A reasonable probability is defined as "a probability sufficient to undermine con-

[illegible] 466 U.S. at 694, 104 S.Ct. at 2068, 80 L.Ed.2d at 699.

Justice O'Connor emphasized for the Court that counsel's performance must be evaluated as a whole:

> "The governing legal standard plays a critical role in defining the question to be asked in assessing the prejudice from counsel's errors. When a defendant challenges a conviction, the question is whether there is a reasonable probability that, absent the errors, the factfinder would have had a reasonable doubt respecting guilt. When a defendant challenges a death sentence such as the one at issue in this case, the question is whether there is a reasonable probability that, absent the errors, the sentencer—including an appellate court, to the extent it independently reweighs the evidence—would have concluded that the balance of aggravating and mitigating circumstances did not warrant death.
>
> "In making this determination, a court hearing an ineffectiveness claim must consider the totality of the evidence before the judge or jury. Some of the factual findings will have been unaffected by the errors, and factual findings that were affected will have been affected in different ways. Some errors will have had a pervasive effect on the inferences to be drawn from the evidence, altering the entire evidentiary picture, and some will have had an isolated, trivial effect. Moreover, a verdict or conclusion only weakly supported by the record is more likely to have been affected by errors than one with overwhelming record support. Taking the unaffected findings as a given, and taking due account of the effect of the errors on the remaining findings, a court making the prejudice inquiry must ask if the defendant has met the burden of showing that the decision reached would reasonably likely have been different absent the errors." 466 U.S. at 695–96, 104 S.Ct. at 2068, 80 L.Ed.2d at 698–99.

The Court also said that the principles it had enumerated "do not establish mechanical rules," adding, "Although those principles should guide the process of decision, the ultimate focus of inquiry must be on the fundamental fairness of the proceeding whose result is being challenged." 466 U.S. at 696, 104 S.Ct. at 2069, 80 L.Ed.2d at 699.

We analyzed and applied *Strickland* in *Harris v. State*, 303 Md. 685, 696–01, 704–23, 496 A.2d 1074, 1079–82, 1088–98 (1985), and have applied it more recently in *State v. Tichnell*, 306 Md. 428, 509 A.2d 1179 (1986).

## (2) TRIAL COUNSEL'S CONDUCT

### (a) THE FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE

[17] Calhoun claims ineffective assistance of counsel because trial counsel failed to interview family members and other persons who knew him such as people at the University of the District of Columbia. As a result, there were no live witnesses at the penalty phase to present mitigating circumstances pertaining to Calhoun's background. Calhoun's aunt, Lulu Cordell, was the only witness interviewed. She was hospitalized at the time of trial. She had much to do with the rearing of Calhoun after he was abandoned by his parents. Trial counsel made arrangements with the trial judge for the court and jury to go to the hospital to hear her testimony. At Calhoun's request this was not done. Her statement was read to the jury and then submitted as an exhibit.

Trial counsel never spoke to other members of Calhoun's family, even though his mother and a sister attended the trial. No efforts were made to contact people at the University of the District of Columbia where Calhoun had been a student.

Calhoun asserts to us:

> "In short, the jury would have been presented with a fundamentally different view of James Calhoun than that which was presented. Rather than appearing as a 'cold', large, black man, the jury

would have seen a person who had a pathetic and brutal upbringing, who struggled at a young age to support his sisters and their children, who turned to drugs to escape the reality of his life, who made attempts to educate and better himself, and who had offered a bond of compassion to those less fortunate."

As to the University of the District of Columbia witnesses, the post-conviction judge said:

"The value of petitioner's sentencing is so negligible that it could not be considered as a factor affecting the outcome of the sentencing. Petitioner could have advised his trial counsel of the names of these persons if he believed they could give testimony of value to his behalf. Presumably, he did not do so because they did not occur to him as having testimony of value to give. Defense counsel can not be said to have failed in their duty by not locating such questionable witnesses in an independent investigation. In this respect it can be noted that the professor with whom the petitioner apparently had the most contact at the university—a Dr. Stuart—was unavailable to testify for 'personal reasons' in these post conviction proceedings when contacted by petitioner's post conviction counsel."

The post-conviction judge observed that since Calhoun's mother and sister attended the trial they "could have been called as witnesses had petitioner wished them to be called." He pointed out, however, that neither of these people "had much contact with petitioner in his teen years and thereafter." He further commented:

"In view of the attendance and presence of both at the trial, the conclusion reached here is that neither petitioner nor petitioner's trial counsel thought that the mother or the sister would be a helpful witness, if called. During these post-conviction proceedings the sister proved to be a mediocre witness with respect to her personality but an impressive witness as to early childhood events suffered by her and petitioner. As a witness, the mother's personality is substantially less than mediocre. However, she too testified to important facts concerning petitioner tending to establish both deprivation and abuse. Trial counsel might well have called the sister and the mother as witnesses trusting that the factual information would be significant and that the personality deficiencies would inure ultimately to the benefit not the detriment of petitioner. These, though, were tactical decisions to be made in consult with petitioner, and the failure to call the mother or the sister or both can not be called erroneous and falls far short of ineffective assistance."

We agree.

As to the written statement of the aunt, who did attend the earlier stages of the trial and, according to the post-conviction judge, "conferred frequently with counsel during recesses in the guilt-innocence stage," the post-conviction court commented, "Counsel did not create the unfortunate circumstance of Ms. Cordell's stroke, but it was through the effort and thorough preparation of counsel that her statement was available for consideration by the jury. In no way can this be said to be ineffective assistance."

On the issue of failure to investigate see *State v. Tichnell*, 306 Md. 428, 509 A.2d 1179 (1986), and *Harris v. State*, 303 Md. 685, 496 A.2d 1074 (1985).

### (b) THE OBJECTION TO THE FECAL MATTER

[18] Calhoun claims ineffective assistance of counsel because his trial attorneys made an objection to the fecal matter issue which we deemed on the original appeal to be limited in scope. He asserts, "The Post-Conviction Court found that had counsel objected properly, the evidence would have been excluded and that its admission 'was critical and highly prejudicial' to Mr. Calhoun."

This contention must fail for two reasons. First of all, as *Strickland* makes plain, counsel must be judged upon the

situation as it existed at the time of trial. We had not at that time decided *Scott*, 287 Md. 235, 411 A.2d 1126. There was no duty on counsel to foresee that we might hold as we held in that case. Secondly, as we have held in Part II(G) of this opinion, the objected to testimony was admissible as a part of institutional history as we held in *Huffington*, 304 Md. at 578, 500 A.2d at 281.

### (c) FAILURE TO OBJECT TO ALLEGEDLY IMPROPER ARGUMENT

We have considered all of these instances of allegedly improper argument in Part II(F) of this opinion and concluded that "there was no improper comment." It follows, therefore, that there could have been no ineffective assistance of counsel.

### (d) FAILURE TO INFORM CALHOUN OF HIS RIGHT OF ALLOCUTION

[19] Calhoun claims ineffective assistance of counsel because he was not informed of his right of allocution. This was discussed in Part I(B) of this opinion where we deemed the point waived because there was no objection in the trial court. Calhoun claims that if he had been advised of his right to allocution he would have told the jury of the circumstances of his life which led to his criminal activity, his remorse, and his resignation to the fact that he would remain in prison for his natural life.

One of the trial attorneys testified that he and his co-counsel thought it best that Calhoun not testify at the guilt/innocence phase of the trial because his visual appearance, which they labeled as scary or menacing, would leave a negative impression on the jury. In fact, he said he "was afraid that the visual impression would be so negative with the jury that they wouldn't even hear what he said, much less give it credibility, unfortunately." He testified that had he been aware of the right of allocution his position would have been the same.

In the post-conviction proceedings trial counsel stated that they did not interpret Code (1957, 1982 Repl.Vol.) Art. 27, § 413 as creating a right of allocution. As our holding in *Harris*, 306 Md. 344, 509 A.2d 120, clearly indicates, they were correct in this conclusion. As *Harris* indicates and as we have already said in Part I(B) of this opinion, there was a hiatus in our rules on the subject of allocution in capital cases between January 1, 1979, and July 1, 1984. The Maryland Rules just did not afford defendants in capital cases a right of allocution. It was the common law right of allocution which was in effect at the time of sentencing in this case. None of our cases so held until *Harris* was decided on May 23 of this year. Defense counsel was not obliged to anticipate our holding in *Harris*.

### (e) INSTRUCTIONS AT THE SENTENCING PHASE OF TRIAL

This allegation concerns the issues we shall discuss in Part II(I) of this opinion and the issue we discussed in Part I(A). Since we find no error on the part of the trial court, it follows that there was no ineffective assistance of counsel.

### (3) APPELLATE COUNSEL

Each of the issues on which it is asserted appellate counsel failed to give effective assistance has been discussed in other parts of this opinion and we have found no error.

### (4) THE DETERMINATION

[20] The post-conviction judge summed up on this issue:

"In no way can it be said that Petitioner was denied the proper functioning of the adversarial process. Just the opposite—a full reading of the trial record here discloses that petitioner was the beneficiary of a fully dedicated effort by two superbly skilled trial attorneys raising on his behalf numerous difficult issues for adjudication and preservation on appeal. The State, itself represented by outstandingly skilled prosecutors, found its case continually tested by equally adept adversaries. In cross-examination

alone there are frequent examples of hard hitting text book type interrogations using known facts skillfully to test a witness' knowledge, reliability, bias and truthfulness.

"There was no failure of the adversarial process here. This was a full scale battle joined. The trial judge, showing great skill and patience, was repeatedly met with novel and complex, not to mention difficult, issues. The extent of the battle joined and the commitment of Petitioner's counsel is exemplified by the fact that petitioner's counsel politely but firmly informed the trial judge and the state that they would incur possible contempt proceedings rather than participate in a trial if the petitioner was to be chained in leg irons in the courtroom.

* * * * * *

"Appellate counsel read every word of the trial transcript, met with Petitioner for consultations and prepared and filed an extensive brief. The appeal was handled skillfully and completely.

"One further comment with respect to the claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. One may ask how the judge, the prosecutors and the defense counsel failed to catch the matter of Audrey Neeley's grand jury testimony and the separate matter of allocution by the Petitioner. The answer lies not in a conclusion that there was no battle of effective adversaries. Rather, the answer is probably to be found in the broad sweep of the battle over many fronts during a period of time sufficient to tax and expend the energies of the participants, all of whom were dedicated to giving their best. The record so reflects."

We bear in mind that in *Strickland* the Court said that "the ultimate focus of inquiry must be on the fundamental fairness of the proceeding whose result is being challenged." 466 U.S. at 696, 104 S.Ct. at 2069, 80 L.Ed.2d at 699. Bearing this in mind and the fact that the Court indicated in *Strickland*, as we have already said, that the effectiveness of counsel must be "viewed as of the time of counsel's conduct," 466 U.S. at 690, 104 S.Ct. at 2066, 80 L.Ed.2d at 695, we find no ineffective assistance of counsel. In fact, it is our view that trial counsel and appellate counsel rendered most effective assistance. The numbers of claims they raised on behalf of their client is indicative of the fact that they were fighting at every turn to protect him to the best of their professional ability.

(I) INSTRUCTIONS AT SENTENCING

Calhoun claims: (1) The trial court failed at sentencing to instruct the jury about its option to impose life notwithstanding its finding that aggravating circumstances outweighed the mitigating circumstances; (2) it "failed to charge the jury that it must find beyond a reasonable doubt that death is appropriate under all the circumstances before that sentence is imposed"; (3) that it did not adequately describe to the jury the function of mitigating circumstances in the sentencing deliberations and what a mitigating circumstance is; and (4) that "the trial court by charging the jury that they could consider whether or not Mr. Calhoun would be sentenced to life without parole under Article 27, Section 643(b), invited them to speculate on the issue of parole."

(1)

[21] The Maryland Capital Sentencing Statute embodied in Code (1957, 1982 Repl. Vol.) Art. 27, § 413 contemplates that after a sentencing authority has found aggravating and mitigating circumstances the sentencing authority shall weigh those mitigating and aggravating circumstances. In fact, the caption to § 413(h) is "[w]eighing mitigating and aggravating circumstances." Section 413(h) states:

> "*Weighing mitigating and aggravating circumstances.*—(1) If the court or jury finds that one or more of these mitigating circumstances exist, it shall determine whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances.

"(2) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death.

"(3) If it finds that the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be imprisonment for life."

Our statute was adopted to meet the objections found in death sentence statutes by the Court in *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238, 92 S.Ct. 2726, 33 L.Ed.2d 346 (1972). It is the type of statute which met the approval of the Court in *Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153, 96 S.Ct. 2909, 49 L.Ed.2d 859 (1976). To instruct the jury as Calhoun desires about an "option to impose life notwithstanding its finding that aggravating circumstances outweighed the mitigating circumstances" would invite the unbridled discretion which the Court condemned in *Furman*. On this point, see *State v. Tichnell*, 306 Md. 428, 509 A.2d 1179 (1986). Thus, we see no error on this point.

(2)

[22] In support of his proposition that the trial court erred by "fail[ing] to charge the jury that it must find beyond a reasonable doubt that death is appropriate under all the circumstances before that sentence is imposed," Calhoun cites *Chenault v. Stynchcombe*, 581 F.2d 444 (5th Cir.1978); *Goodwin v. Balkcom*, 684 F.2d 794 (11th Cir.1982), *cert. denied*, 460 U.S. 1098, 103 S.Ct. 1798, 76 L.Ed.2d 364 (1983), and the dissenting opinion of Justice Stevens respecting the denial of certiorari in *Smith v. North Carolina*, 459 U.S. 1056, 103 S.Ct. 474, 74 L.Ed.2d 622 (1982). We deem those cases inapposite. In *Foster v. State*, 304 Md. 428, 477, 499 A.2d 1236, 1255–56 (1985), *reconsideration denied*, 305 Md. 306, 503 A.2d 1235 (1986), we indicated that a preponderance of the evidence test was proper in weighing aggravating and mitigating factors. Judge Eldridge said for the Court:

"As pointed out previously and in *Tichnell I* [*v. State*], 287 Md. [695,] 720, 415 A.2d 830[, 848 (1980)], this statutory language does not specify which side has the burden of *proof* or of *persuasion*. It does specify in paragraph (1) that the applicable standard is 'preponderance of the evidence' rather than 'beyond a reasonable doubt.' The 'preponderance of the evidence' test is normal when a court is weighing one set of circumstances against another. Ordinarily in such a balancing process, a court simply determines which side outweighs the other, without being concerned with how much or how clearly one side may outweigh the other. In *Tichnell I*, we did hold that, in this context, the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' standard was not required by *In re Winship*, *supra*, [397 U.S. 358, 90 S.Ct. 1068, 25 L.Ed.2d 368], saying that the principles articulated in *Winship* and other cases 'do not require the prosecution ... to prove *beyond a reasonable doubt* that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances.' 287 Md. at 731–732, 415 A.2d 830. We adhere to that view." 304 Md. at 477, 499 A.2d at 1256–56.

We continue to adhere to the view that the preponderance of the evidence is the proper test.

(3)

[23] Calhoun, citing *Spivey v. Zant*, 661 F.2d 464 (5th Cir.1982), *cert. denied*, 456 U.S. 1111, 102 S.Ct. 3496, 73 L.Ed.2d 1374 (1982), claims that the trial court did not adequately describe to the jury the function of mitigating circumstances in the sentencing deliberations and what a mitigating circumstance is. More recently in *Pool v. Kemp*, 764 F.2d 1478 (11th Cir.1985), the court said:

"As stated at the outset, we continue to agree with our holding in *Spivey* that the jury instructions must guide and focus the jury's consideration of mitigating circumstances. Today, we elaborate on *Spivey* and hold that the Constitution requires that there be no reasonable possibility that a juror will misunderstand the sweeping and *function* of mitigating

circumstances, i.e., that the law recognizes the existence of circumstances which in fairness or mercy may be considered as extenuating or reducing the punishment. What we reject is the notion that the Constitution requires that the jury instructions include any particular words or phrases to define the concept of mitigation or the function of mitigating circumstances. It is sufficient from a constitutional standpoint if it is clear from the entire charge considered in context that a reasonable jury could not have misunderstood the meaning and function of mitigating circumstances. To the extent that *Wilcbrook* [*v. Zant*, 784 F.2d 1487 (11th Cir.1982)] and its progeny are inconsistent, those cases are overruled." 784 F.2d at 1494. (Footnotes omitted.)

The trial judge in his instructions to the jury said of the mitigating circumstances:

"[I]t is the burden of the defendant to establish the existence of one or more of the mitigating circumstances by the preponderance of the evidence that is, is something more likely so than not so. It was described to you by counsel as often used as the scales of justice. If they tip slightly in favor of one side, then your burden has been met."

He then proceeded to discuss each of the mitigating circumstances set forth in Code (1957, 1982 Repl.Vol.) § 413(g) which appear on the sentencing form provided pursuant to then Rule 772A(d) (now Rule 4-343(e)). After that he went through the procedure of advising the jury as to the manner of filling out the sentencing form.

As we said in *Calhoun*, 297 Md. at 640, 468 A.2d at 62, the sentencing jury set forth under "8," other mitigating circumstances, that it felt "that a substantial mitigating factor is the defendant's background, which has been such that he has never been integrated into society. Therefore, he has been and is unable to conform with its norms and moral values."

We believe the trial judge's instructions were clear and that the jury had no misunderstanding about mitigating circumstances as evidenced by its reference to other mitigating circumstances.

(4)

[24] Calhoun says that in *Poole v. State*, 295 Md. 167, 452 A.2d 1219 (1982), and *Shoemaker v. State*, 228 Md. 452, 180 A.2d 662 (1962), "Maryland courts have roundly condemned the mention of the possibility of parole or release on a life sentence during closing arguments." From this he asserts:

"Manifestly, if it is improper for counsel to argue such matters, which occurred in this case, it is even more improper for the trial court to give instructions which would indicate to the jury that a defendant may be released. Here the trial court by charging the jury that they could consider whether or not Mr. Calhoun would be sentenced to life without parole under Article 27, Section 643(k), invited them to speculate on the issue of parole. As such, the jury was allowed to consider a factor which is arbitrary and not related to any matter properly before them." (References to record extract omitted.)

Code (1957, 1982 Repl.Vol.) Art. 27, § 643B provides for mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole upon conviction a fourth time of any crime of violence by "[a]ny person who has served three separate terms of confinement in a correctional institution as a result of three separate convictions of any crime of violence...." Subsection (d) of § 643B provides that if the State intends to proceed against a person as a subsequent offender under that section "it shall comply with the procedures set forth in the Maryland Rules for the indictment and trial of a subsequent offender." Pursuant to that provision and then Rule 734 (now Rule 4-245) notice had been given to Calhoun of the State's intention to seek a mandatory life sentence.

At the sentencing proceeding the defense introduced as an exhibit the notice from the State of its intention to seek a mandatory life sentence. No doubt defense counsel

introduced this because they thought it would have a bearing on whether or not, in the words of Art. 27, § 413(g)(7), Calhoun "w[ould] engage in further criminal activity that would constitute a continuing threat to society." It was because of the exhibit that the trial judge instructed the jury:

"In that regard, with [mitigating factor] number 7, an exhibit has been introduced, a Notice of Intention for the State to seek a life sentence without parole. There is a procedure separate and apart from the procedure before us today in which there is a determination under certain findings where that sentence may be imposed, that is, life imprisonment without parole. You may consider that only on the question of whether or not if the existence of that procedure makes it more or less likely that the defendant would engage in further criminal activity that would constitute a continuing threat to society."

Calhoun cannot now be heard to complain of an instruction which came about because of an effort of defense counsel to protect him.

(J) ARGUMENT AT SENTENCING

[35] Calhoun asserts that "the prosecutor's closing argument contained improper, irrelevant, inflammatory and prejudicial arguments which should not be made in a capital trial." He refers to three things. He objects because the prosecutor said, "Mr. Townsend, Mr. Cromwell, it says in the Bible: Death cometh, final, certain." Then he says that the State "improperly asked the jury to compare the circumstances of the death of the decedent to that of an execution sanctioned by the law." Finally, he states that the prosecutor "improperly suggested to the jury that the petitioner may not actually serve a life sentence if it was imposed. He argued to the jury that the question of not being paroled was only 'a possibility' which the jury could not speculate on . . ." As to the last point, as we have just said under subsection (I) of this section of the opinion, it was the defense who introduced into evidence the issue of a possible mandatory life sentence. This argument was in evident response to that issue and we do not believe Calhoun can be heard to complain.

What the State said immediately after its reference to the inevitability and finality of death was:

"We would all, I am sure, like to choose the manner of our death. Peaceful perhaps, surrounded by loved ones, in the setting of tranquility without pain or suffering. Of course, we can't. Some have to face death in manners harsher than others. Phil Metz was one of those. Phil Metz faced death, suffered death, under an excruciating set of circumstances as one can possibly imagine. His life was taken from him unaware without a second ability to pause to reflect to know that he was to expire, left to die in a pool of blood and having a man stand over him and just executed him and proceeded to steal six thousand fifty dollars and run away."

[36] In subsection (F) of this section of the opinion we have quoted from *Wilhelm v. State*, 272 Md. 404, 413-13, 326 A.2d 707, 714 (1974), as to closing argument. It will be recalled that we there said that generally counsel has the right to make any comment or argument that is warranted by the evidence proved or inferences therefrom and that the prosecuting attorney is as free to comment legitimately and to speak fully, although harshly, on the accused's action and conduct if the evidence supports his comments, as is accused's counsel to comment on the nature of the evidence and the character of the witnesses which the prosecution produced. The argument as to the certainty of death did not exceed the bounds of fair comment.

[37] The argument where it is contended that the State improperly compared the circumstances of the death of the decedent to that of an execution sanctioned by law was as follows:

"You are here now to contemplate the death of another man, James Arthur Calhoun. His life won't be taken from him in that fashion. He has had the benefit of a fair and exhaustive trial submitted to 12 citizens of the community. He has had the opportunity to present his life to you. That determination is going to be made by calm deliberation among you ladies and gentlemen and decided according to the law, not based on a desire to inflict cruelty on any person. Phil Metz wasn't given that opportunity lying there in a pool of blood." James Arthur Calhoun is given that opportunity and will know the manner in which his death will come. Phil Metz's was undeserved, this man has forfeited his right to live among us under the law."

Counsel then went on to refer, although not by name, to *Furman v. Georgia* and the fault which the Supreme Court found "with all of the existing death penalty statutes in the United States." He explained, "The main reason for it was that juries were given unfettered discretion in deciding who should live and who should die." Counsel explained the Maryland Death Sentence Statute and the fact that "the scheme in Maryland [of] guided discretion consists of [the jury's] being required to identify certain aggravating factors and then balance them against any mitigating factors that may exist" and then "make an ultimate determination of whether the mitigating factors by a preponderance of the evidence would outweigh any aggravating factors which of course have to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

Placed in context the argument does not exceed the bounds of fair comment.

### (E) RECUSAL OF THE POST-CONVICTION JUDGE

Calhoun alleges:

"This case involved the killing of two persons, one of whom was a police officer of the Montgomery County Police Department. One basis for seeking the death penalty was that a law enforcement official had been killed in the course of his duties. Prior to the original trial, Mr. Calhoun's counsel filed a motion for an order disqualifying either the Honorable John F. McAuliffe or the Honorable James S. McAuliffe from participating in the proceedings upon information and belief that their father, now retired, had been the chief of the Montgomery County Police Department.

"The motion to recuse was renewed by written motion when the case was assigned to Judge [James S.] McAuliffe for post conviction proceedings. On October 22, 1984, over objection, Judge McAuliffe heard the motion. Counsel for Mr. Calhoun requested that another judge rule on the motion. Judge McAuliffe answered a number of inquiries by counsel and filed supplemental statements which revealed that (1) his father was the Chief of Police for Montgomery County for over 15 years, (2) he had other relatives, two cousins and an uncle, who served in law enforcement officials, one of whom was killed in the line of duty, and (3) during his consideration of the petition his cousin, who was once a police officer was shot and killed during a robbery." (References to transcript omitted.)

The post-conviction judge said:

"The matter of recusal is a serious matter. It asks this Court to step down from hearing this case. The Court has examined its conscience, did not ask for the case, does not want the case, in the sense that it does not want any case that ever deals with the life of a human being.

"When I took the oath of office, I understood that there were such cases out there and that someday I might be required to take one and maybe more. The case was assigned to me. I have no prejudice or bias against the Defendant in this case.

"I feel fully able to review the matters which are at hand and to make a determination under the law. Under the circum-

stances it seems to me that it would be inappropriate for me to recuse myself, although frankly there is a—there is a sort of an invitation from the side of me that says, take the easy way out. But, that is not what I agreed to do when I took this job. In short, the motion for recusal is denied."

[28] Calhoun first argues that the post-conviction judge erred in denying the request that the matter of recusal be heard by another judge, saying "Once a substantial question has been raised, the motion should have been heard by another judge. *C.f. Berger v. United States*, 255 U.S. 22 [, 41 S.Ct. 230, 65 L.Ed. 481] (1921) (federal statute requires that once affidavit containing facts sufficient to warrant recusal, motion should be granted)."

The Court opened its opinion in *Berger* by stating:

"Section 21 of the Judicial Code provides as follows:

" 'Whenever a party to any action or proceeding, civil or criminal, shall make and file an affidavit that the judge before whom the action or proceeding is to be tried or heard has a personal bias or prejudice either against him or in favor of any opposite party to the suit, such judge shall proceed no further therein, but another judge shall be designated in the manner prescribed in the section last preceding, or chosen in the manner prescribed in section twenty-three, to hear such matter. Every such affidavit shall state the facts and the reasons for the belief that such bias or prejudice exists, . . . No party shall be entitled in any case to file more than one such affidavit; and no such affidavit shall be filed unless accompanied by a certificate of counsel of record that such affidavit and application are made in good faith. The same proceedings shall be had when the presiding judge shall file with the clerk of the court a certificate that he deems himself unable for any reason to preside with absolute impartiality in the pending suit or action.' " 255 U.S. at 26-27, 41 S.Ct. at 231, 65 L.Ed. at 483.

The Court held:

"We are of opinion, therefore, that an affidavit upon information and belief satisfies the section and that upon its filing, if it show the objectionable inclination or disposition of the judge, which we have said is an essential condition, it is his duty to 'proceed no further' in the case." 255 U.S. at 35, 41 S.Ct. at 233, 65 L.Ed. at 486.

We do not have in force in Maryland a statute similar to 28 U.S.C. § 144 which requires that such a motion be heard by another judge. Hence, the argument that Judge McAuliffe should not have ruled upon the matter is without merit.

[29] Calhoun next alleges that "because of Judge McAuliffe's familial ties to the Montgomery County Police Department, he erred in not granting the motion to recuse," citing ABA Standards, *The Function of the Judge* (1968), which states:

"The trial judge should recuse himself whenever he has any doubts as to his ability to preside impartially in a criminal case or whenever he believes his impartiality can be reasonably questioned."

In this instance the post-conviction judge had no doubt of his ability to preside impartially.

The background for disqualifying judges was recently commented upon by the Supreme Court in *Aetna Life Insurance Co. v. Lavoie*, — U.S. —, 106 S.Ct. 1580, 89 L.Ed.2d 823 (1986):

"[T]he traditional common-law rule was that disqualification for bias or prejudice was not permitted. See, *e.g.*, *Clyma v. Kennedy*, 54 Conn. 310, 29 A. 539 (1894). See generally Frank, Disqualification of Judges, 56 Yale L.J. 605 (1947). As Blackstone put it, 'the law will not suppose a possibility of bias or favour in a judge, who is already sworn to administer impartial justice, and whose authority greatly depends upon that presumption and idea.' 3 W. Blackstone, Commentaries *361. The more recent trend has

been towards the adoption of statutes that permit disqualification for bias or prejudice. See *Berger v. United States*, 255 U.S. 22, 31 [41 S.Ct. 230, 232, 65 L.Ed. 481] (1921) (enforcing statute disqualifying federal judges in certain circumstances 'for personal bias or prejudice'). See also ABA Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3C(1)(a) (1980) ('[A] judge should disqualify himself ... where he has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party'). But that alone would not be sufficient basis for imposing a constitutional requirement under the Due Process Clause." — U.S. at —, 106 S.Ct. at 1584, 89 L.Ed.2d at 832.

The State relies upon *Costello v. State*, 237 Md. 464, 206 A.2d 812 (1965). There a motion to disqualify was made after the trial and after the trial judge had considered the pre-sentence investigation. The judge insisted that an altercation between him and Costello's counsel had no effect on his action in respect to sentence. Judge Oppenheimer said for the Court:

"Nor do we agree with the appellant that the trial judge committed reversible error in refusing to disqualify himself. We have emphasized the fundamental principle that a judge shall not preside in any case unless he is disinterested and impartial. *Bd. of Medical Examiners v. Steward*, 203 Md. 574, 581, 102 A.2d 248 (1954) and cases therein cited. We have also held that we can not engraft upon our Constitution a provision that a judge is disqualified because he has expressed his opinion as to the case. *Co. Comrs. Charles Co. v. Wilmer*, 131 Md. 175, 180–181, 101 Atl. 686 (1917). In this case, the motion to disqualify was made after the trial had taken place before the judge involved and after he had considered a pre-sentence investigation made at his request. Judge Shure made it clear to the appellant in the hearing on the motion to reduce sentence that the unfortunate altercation between the judge and the appellant's counsel had no effect whatsoever on the judge's action in respect of the appellant's sentence. No corroboration of that statement is needed, but the nature of the sentence, in view of the appellant's record and his offense, of itself indicates the dispassionate consideration which justice requires." 237 Md. at 473, 206 A.2d at 817–18.

The post-conviction judge referred to Canon 13 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics which provides:

"A judge should not act in a controversy in which a near relative is party, witness, or lawyer; he should not suffer his conduct to justify the impression that any person can improperly influence him or unduly enjoy his favor, or that he is affected by the kinship, rank, position, or influence of any party or other person. He should not testify voluntarily as a character witness."

He also referred to Rule 2 of the Rules of Judicial Ethics implementing that Canon which states:

"2. A judge shall not exercise his duties with respect to any matter in which a near relative by blood or marriage is a party, has an interest, or appears as a lawyer. He shall not participate in any matter in which he has a significant financial interest or in which he previously acted as a lawyer. For the purpose of this rule 'near relative' shall mean connection by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree, counting down from a common ancestor to the more remote."

Recusal would not have been required either by the canon or the rule.

In *Mortullo v. Kovens Furniture Co.*, 253 Md. 274, 252 A.2d 822 (1969), the plaintiff in a personal injury case wanted the judge to disqualify himself because the defendant was represented by the law firm in which the judge was once a partner and by which his son was then currently employed. We found the issue moot because the case had been removed from Baltimore City to Howard County for trial. However, we observed:

"If disqualification had to be discussed, we would say that under the circumstances there was no constitutional, legal or practical need for the judge not to sit in the case and, having been within his rights in not disqualifying himself, '* * * his action in that respect is not the subject of review.' *Ex Parte Bowles*, 164 Md. 318, 326 [165 A. 169]." 253 Md. at 276, 252 A.2d at 823.

*Ex Parte Bowles*, 164 Md. 318, 165 A. 169 (1933), involved an appeal from a finding of contempt. There the appellant had filed an affidavit claiming that the judge should be disqualified because his son was attorney for the son's father-in-law, a party to the case. The Court found that the judge had no interest within the meaning of Const. art. IV, § 7 which it defined as "having reference to a pecuniary interest in the litigation or the result thereof," nor was he connected with either of the parties by affinity or consanguinity within the prohibited degrees set forth in the Constitution and Code (1924) Art. 26, § 31. Judge W. Mitchell Digges said for the Court:

> "There may be, and doubtless are, many circumstances in which a delicate sense of propriety would, and probably should, induce a judge to decline to sit in a given case and, upon his own motion or upon motion of either of the parties, remove the cause to another jurisdiction or request some other judge of the same jurisdiction to preside at the trial. However, if the presiding judge, under such circumstances, refuses to do this, he is within his legal rights; and his action in that respect is not the subject of review. Where the alleged disqualification does not amount to a constitutional or legal disqualification, the question is left to the enlightened conscience, delicacy of feeling, and sense of fairness possessed by the individual judge. The long and honorable history of the judiciary of this state impels the belief that the decision of such questions can be safely left where the responsibility now reposes. Judges are selected to be useful public servants, and no judge's view of the proprieties in such questions should be carried to such an extent as would result in the serious curtailment of his usefulness as a public officer. We have always had, and will continue to have, situations where young men are practicing attorneys before the court presided over by their fathers; and what we have said is not to be construed as indicating a belief on the part of this court that justice, fairness, or delicacy of feeling should require, or even permit, the retirement of the judge in all such cases." 164 Md. at 326-27, 165 A. at 172.[3]

See also *Harper v. Harper*, 49 Md.App. 339, 342, 431 A.2d 761 (1981), *rev'd on other grounds*, 294 Md. 54, 448 A.2d 916 (1982). There the trial judge had met the appellee's wife once and knew that the daughter of the parties worked for a fellow judge. Relying upon *Marrullo*, 253 Md. 274, 252 A.2d 822, the Court of Special Appeals found no impropriety in the failure to recuse.

Countless times we have held jurors qualified when an impediment had been presented and the juror indicated that he or she could impartially decide the case without regard to that alleged impediment. In *State v. Hutchinson*, 260 Md. 227, 271 A.2d 641 (1970), the Court was concerned with "the question of whether or not the trial judge, sitting as a jury, erred in preliminarily admitting into evidence, over objections, the inculpatory statement of the accused obtained during a custodial interrogation and taken in violation of *Miranda* guidelines." The trial judge had subsequently rejected the statement at the close of trial and declared that he would completely disregard it in reaching a verdict. As Judge Finan put it for the Court:

> "On appeal to the Court of Special Appeals the judgment was reversed and the case remanded for a new trial because, in

3. Under Rule 2 of the Rules of Judicial Ethics it is improper today for "young men [who] are practicing attorneys [to appear] before the court presided over by their fathers...."

the opinion of the court, the 'mere knowledge of the substance of the confession by the trier of the facts necessarily tended to deprive appellant [accused and appellee here] of his constitutional right to a fair trial.'" 260 Md. at 229, 271 A.2d at 642.

The Court said:

"This assumption of the court might be valid were we to first, not believe the trial judge's statement that he was disregarding and eliminating from his deliberations the substance of the inadmissible confession, and secondly, choose to ignore the professional expertise, experience, and judicial temperament with which our legal system has inherently invested a trial judge *vis a vis* a jury comprised of laymen. It is true that judges, being flesh and blood, are subject to the same emotions and human frailties as affect other members of the species; however, by his legal training, traditional approach to problems, and the very state of the art of his profession, he must early learn to perceive, distinguish and interpret the nuances of the law which are its 'warp and woof.'" 260 Md. at 233, 271 A.2d at 644.

Given our prior cases, the fact that as in *Costello* the post-conviction judge ruled in favor of Calhoun as demonstrated by Part I of this opinion, our holdings relative to jurors, and our holding in *Hutchinson*, we find no error in the failure of the post-conviction judge to recuse himself.

III

We conclude that the post-conviction judge erred on the issues which are before us on the State's appeal and he did not err on the issues before us on Calhoun's appeal.

ORDER OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY GRANTING A NEW CAPITAL SENTENCING PROCEEDING REVERSED; IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS, THE ORDER OF THAT COURT IS AFFIRMED; CASE REMANDED TO THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING AN ORDER DENYING ALL POST-CONVICTION RELIEF TO JAMES ARTHUR CALHOUN.

RONALD M. SHARROW, CHARTERED

v.

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY *et al.*

No. 111, Sept. Term, 1984.

Court of Appeals of Maryland.

July 15, 1986.

Attorney representing party injured in automobile accident sued tort-feasor's insurer and two of its employees for tortious interference with contract. The Circuit Court, Baltimore City, Joseph H.H. Kaplan, J., sustained defendants' demurrer, and attorney appealed. The Court of Special Appeals, Wilner, J., 63 Md.App. 412, 492 A.2d 677, affirmed, and attorney petitioned for certiorari. The Court of Appeals, Murphy, C.J., held that attorney, who alleged that insurer had capitalized on his client's need for money by involving client in negotiations and requiring client to falsely avow that he had advised attorney of his intention to settle directly with insurer, stated cause of action against insurer for tortious interference with contract.

Reversed and remanded.

1. Torts ⇐12

Party cannot be liable for intentionally inducing another to breach his contract, even though party acts solely for his own benefit, provided he had right to cause breach.

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IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1986

JAMES CALHOUN,

Petitioner

v.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

Respondent

# BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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## QUESTION PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner received effective assistance of counsel at his capital sentencing hearing?

2. Whether the sentencing jury was properly instructed on weighing aggravating and mitigating circumstances?

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No. 86-5867

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IN THE

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JAMES CALHOUN,

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v.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

Respondent

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# BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Respondent accepts the Statement of the Case set forth in the Petition as Statement of Proceedings and Statement of Facts at pages 3-5.

## REASONS FOR DENYING THE WRIT

### I.

### AS PETITIONER RECEIVED EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL AT SENTENCING, AND AS THIS CASE INVOLVES NOTHING MORE THAN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD APPLICATION OF LAW PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY THIS COURT, THERE IS NO BASIS UPON WHICH TO GRANT FURTHER REVIEW.

Petitioner was represented at trial and sentencing by two highly qualified defense attorneys, who gave detailed

testimony concerning the representation of Petitioner at a lengthy post-conviction hearing. In considering that testimony in conjunction with the allegations raised, the post-conviction court noted in its decision denying relief on this basis:

> "In no way can it be said that Petitioner was denied the proper functioning of the adversarial process. Just the opposite -- a full reading of the trial record here discloses that Petitioner was the beneficiary of a fully dedicated effort by two superbly skilled trial attorneys raising on his behalf numerous difficult issues for adjudication and preservation on appeal. The State, itself represented by outstandingly skilled prosecutors, found its case continually tested by equally adept adversaries. In cross-examination alone there are frequent examples of hard-hitting textbook type interrogations using known facts skillfully to test a witness' knowledge, reliability, bias and truthfulness.
>
> There was no failure of the adversarial process here. This was a full scale battle joined. The trial judge, showing great skill and patience, was repeatedly met with novel and complex, not to mention difficult, issues. The extent of the battle joined and the commitment of Petitioner's counsel is exemplified by the fact that Petitioner's counsel politely but firmly informed the trial judge and the State that they would incur possible contempt proceedings rather than participate in a trial if the Petitioner was to be chained in leg irons in the courtroom." (E. 69-70).
>
> * * *
>
> "One further comment with respect to the claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. One may ask how the judge, the prosecutors and the defense counsel failed to catch the matter of Audrey Neeley's grand jury testimony and the separate matter of allocution by the Petitioner.

> The answer lies not in a conclusion that there was no battle of effective adversaries. Rather, the answer is probably to be found in the broad sweep of the battle over many fronts during a period of time sufficient to tax and expend the energies of the participants, all of whom were dedicated to giving their best. The record so reflects." (E. 82-83).

In Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 608, 104 S.Ct. 2052, 2064, 80 L.Ed.2d 674, 692-93 (1984), this Court stated:

> "In giving meaning to the requirement, however, we must take its purpose -- to ensure a fair trial -- as the guide. The benchmark for judging any claim of ineffectiveness must be whether counsel's conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied on as having produced a just result.
>
> * * *
>
> First, the defendant must show that counsel's performance was deficient. This requires showing that counsel made errors so serious that counsel was not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed the defendant by the Sixth Amendment."

A review of the contentions raised by Calhoun fails to reflect that type of deficiency necessary to give rise to a valid Sixth Amendment claim. An examination of the alleged failure to investigate and failure to advise Calhoun of his right to allocute reveals that Petitioner's ineffective assistance claim was properly denied.

The facts in this case do not evidence any substantial failure to inquire into Calhoun's personal history by his attorneys. Indeed, most of the defense strategy at sentencing was centered upon the testimony of Petitioner's aunt, Lulu Cordell. At an early age, Calhoun was abandoned by his

parents, and instead was raised by this aunt. She was prepared to testify at sentencing with respect to Calhoun's background, upbringing, and miserable early homelife. Unfortunately, prior to her testimony, the aunt was hospitalized. Nevertheless, defense counsel arranged to have the jury transported to the hospital in order to receive testimony from this vital witness. However, Calhoun personally preempted this course of conduct by demanding that his aunt not be disturbed. Despite this lack of live testimony caused by Calhoun himself, the information was conveyed to the jury through the aunt's lengthy statement which was read. See E. 1208-1226. After its reading, the statement was submitted to the jury as an exhibit. While defense counsel may not have interviewed other members of Calhoun's family, defense counsel were certainly knowledgeable about Calhoun's background and conveyed that information to the jury which found as the only mitigating circumstance:

> "This jury feels that a substantial mitigating factor is the defendant's background which has been such that he has not been integrated into society. Therefore he has been and is unable to conform with its norms and moral values." (E. 1266).

Thus, it is clear that Petitioner's background was before the jury. Petitioner, however, complains that additional witnesses should have been utilized to more fully invigorate his personal history. Such a claim was properly rejected by the post-conviction court in its opinion:

> "Petitioner's mother, sister and aunt attended the trial. Petitioner's mother and sister could have been called as witnesses had Petitioner wished them to be called. . . . However, neither had much contact with Petitioner in his teen years and thereafter. In his teen years Petitioner was assisted by his Aunt Lulu Cordell but he did not then live with either his mother, Edna Calhoun, or his sister, Phyllis Calhoun. The mother and the aunt could have testified to the abuse Petitioner received as a child. In view of the attendance and presence of both at the trial, the conclusion reached here is that neither Petitioner nor Petitioner's trial counsel thought that the mother or the sister would be a helpful witness, if called. During these post-conviction proceedings, the sister proved to be a mediocre witness with respect to her personality but an impressive witness as to early child events suffered by her and Petitioner. As a witness, the mother's personality is substantially less than mediocre. However, she too testified to important facts concerning Petitioner tending to establish both deprivation and abuse. Trial counsel might well have called the sister and the mother as witnesses trusting that the factual information would be significant and that the personality deficiencies would inure ultimately to the benefit not the detriment of Petitioner. These, though, were tactical decisions to be made in consult with Petitioner, and the failure to call the mother or the sister or both cannot be called erroneous and falls far short of ineffective assistance." (E. 66-67).

The additional witnesses that Calhoun asserted should have been called at the sentencing hearing related to individuals who had known Calhoun while attending a human behavior course in 1977-78 and while participating as a program leader in a tennis program in the spring of 1979. Their testimony offered at post-conviction was characterized by the post-conviction judge as "limited and sketchy." (E.

65). In the words of the post-conviction judge, the testimonial "value at Petitioner's sentencing is so negligible that it could not be considered as a factor affecting the outcome of the sentencing." (E. 66). A review of the testimony of these witnesses at post-conviction supports the post-conviction court's conclusion. As a result, relief was properly denied on this basis.

In addition to the alleged failure to investigate and produce sufficient evidence in mitigation, Calhoun claims that his Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel was violated by the failure of his attorney to advise him of his right to allocute. However, in view of the fact that the right to allocute was open to question at the time of the trial, the failure in this regard cannot be said to fall below the range of competency demanded of attorneys in criminal cases.

At the time of Calhoun's sentencing, the right of a convicted defendant to make an unsworn statement, not subject to cross-examination, to the sentencer in a non-capital case was specifically set forth in the Maryland Rules of Procedure as former Maryland Rule 772. There was no concomitant right under Maryland Rule 772A, the procedures applicable to capital sentencing proceedings. Appellant recognizes this omission in the rules, but claims that counsel should have known that capital defendants were guaranteed the right to allocute under the Maryland common law. In Harris v. State, 306 Md. 344, 509 A.2d 120 (1986), the Maryland Court of Appeals acknowledged

the omission of a right to allocute from the capital sentencing rule, but held that there was nevertheless a common law right. However, in this case, the Maryland Court of Appeals acknowledged that this right had not been recognized prior to Harris:

> "As Harris indicates and as we have already said in Part I(B) of this opinion, there was a hiatus in our rules on the subject of allocution in capital cases between January 1, 1979, and July 1, 1984. The Maryland rules just did not afford defendants in capital cases a right of allocution. It was the common law right of allocution which was in effect at the time of sentencing in this case. None of our cases so held until Harris was decided on May 23 of this year. Defense counsel was not obliged to anticipate our holding in Harris." State v. Calhoun, 306 Md. 692, 736, 511 A.2d 461, 483 (1986).

Nevertheless Appellant asserts that counsel should have been informed of the common law right of allocution recognized in Dutton v. State, 123 Md. 373, 91 A. 417 (1914). However, a review of Dutton does not reflect that the common law "right" recognized in Harris was synonomous with the right to make an unsworn plea for mercy. In Dutton, supra, the Maryland Court of Appeals noted that the practice of allocution is not inherent, but rather is controlled by statute and that the purposes of allocution are accomplished in this State through the appointment of an attorney to defend the accused in a capital case and the existence of various motions that may be made on behalf of the accused to preclude the entry of judgment.

As recognized by the Connecticut Supreme Court in State v. Carr, 374 A.2d 1107, 1116 (1977), under the common law the purpose of allocution was not to present mitigating evidence or a plea for leniency, but rather was to give the defendant a formal opportunity to show one of the strictly defined legal grounds for avoidance or delay of the sentence. Other procedural devices, and indeed the entire mechanism embodied in Article 27, §413 (the Maryland death penalty statute), afforded the defendant ample opportunity to inject legal grounds for avoidance of the sentence. As a result, prior to the Harris decision, it was reasonable to believe that the sentencing hearing itself constituted a substitute for this common law version of allocution.

Certainly the law was not so clear at the time of Calhoun's sentencing hearing that defense counsel was ineffective for considering only whether Calhoun should testify and not whether he had the right to "allocute" in order to avoid cross-examination.

II.

AS THE SENTENCING JURY WAS PROPERLY INSTRUCTED ON THE WEIGHING OF AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES, REVIEW BY THIS COURT SHOULD BE DENIED.

Claiming that the jury instructions given at sentencing erroneously placed the risk of non-production on the defendant in the ultimate weighing of aggravating and mitigating factors, and claiming that, at least, there was inconsistency in the instructions. Calhoun asserts that he is entitled to have his death sentence vacated on this basis. However, there

was neither an erroneous allocation of burden or inconsistency in instructions. As a result, there is no basis for the review.

Prior to the jury deliberating its sentencing verdict, the trial court instructed, in pertinent part:

> "Your determination is either a sentence of death or life imprisonment. The death sentence may not be imposed unless you unanimously agree that the aggravating factors outweigh the mitigating factors." (E. 1228).
>
> * * *
>
> "If you find that the mitigating factors outweigh the aggravating factors, then you go to the fourth section and enter life imprisonment. If you find that the mitigating factors do not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factors, then you mark that accordingly and proceed to section four and enter a sentence of death." (E. 1233).

Contrary to the assertion of Petitioner, these instructions are not inconsistent. If aggravating circumstances outweigh mitigating circumstances (or mitigating circumstances do not outweigh aggravating circumstances), the sentence is death. On the other hand, if mitigating circumstances outweigh aggravating circumstances (or aggravating circumstances do not outweigh mitigating circumstances) then the sentence is life. There is no inconsistency; there is an omission: The instructions given only relate to situations where the scales are tipped to one side or the other and do not address the "equipoise" situation of even balance, and that is the only situation in which the "burden" is relevant. See Foster v. State, 304 Md. 439, 499 A.2d 1236 (1985), cert.

denied, ___ U.S. ___, 106 S.Ct. 3310, 92 L.Ed.2d 723 (1986). However, no instruction was requested on who bore the risk of non-persuasion, and no exception was taken to the omission of such an instruction.

Had an instruction been requested placing the risk of non-persuasion on the State, it would have been incumbent upon the trial judge to so instruct the jury. See Foster, et al. v. State, 305 Md. 306, 503 A.2d 1326 (1986) (on motions for reconsideration). Contrary to Petitioner's assertion, and regardless of his personal reading of the statute, the risk of non-persuasion has been squarely on the shoulders of the State since Tichnell v. State, 287 Md. 695, 730, 415 A.2d 830, 848-849 (1980), the first decision rendered under the current capital punishment statute.

However, Petitioner's current allegation is not based upon the omission of an instruction on equipoise. Instead, he perceives inconsistency and a misallocation of the ultimate burden. Such is simply not the case, and review should be denied.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the State of Maryland respectfully requests that the Petition for Writ of Certiorari be denied, review being neither desirable nor in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of January, 1987, to Robert E. Morin, Esquire, Office of the Public Defender, Suite 250, 414 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

RICHARD B. ROSENBLATT,
Assistant Attorney General

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# SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

JAMES CALHOUN *v.* MARYLAND

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

No. 86–5867. Decided March 2, 1987

The petition for a writ of certiorari is denied.

JUSTICE BRENNAN, dissenting.

Adhering to my view that the death penalty is in all circumstances cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, *Gregg* v. *Georgia*, 428 U. S. 153, 227 (1976), I would grant certiorari and vacate the death sentence in this case.

JUSTICE MARSHALL, dissenting from denial of certiorari.

Maryland's capital sentencing statute provides that, "[i]f [the sentencing jury] finds that the mitigating circumstances do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances, the sentence shall be death." Md. Ann. Code, Art. 27, § 413(h)(2). The trial court's jury instruction in this case similarly stated: "If you find that the mitigating factors do not by a preponderance of the evidence outweigh the aggravating factors, then you mark that accordingly and proceed to Section 4 and enter a sentence of death." 306 Md. 692, 698, 511 A. 2d 461, 464 (1986). Once again the Maryland Court of Appeals has reviewed the statute and jury instruction and has concluded that defendant was not assigned the burden of proof during his sentencing proceeding, even though neither the statute nor the instruction otherwise expressly addressed the placement of this burden.

> "[I]t is plain that any rational juror would understand the language of § 413(h) and [this instruction] as placing the burden of persuasion on the accused. Indeed, I cannot imagine any other way to read the statute that does

> not completely ignore its words. No fair-minded juror could have understood from these instructions that the burden was upon the State to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that aggravating circumstances must outweigh mitigating circumstances before a sentence of death could be returned." *Huffington* v. *Maryland*, —— U. S. ——, —— (1986) (MARSHALL, J., dissenting from denial of certiorari).

I adhere to my belief that the Maryland statute, as written, and as applied, unconstitutionally places the burden of proof on capital defendants at the sentencing phase of their trials. I would grant the petition for certiorari.